Earth First!

Eostar

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Greenpeace UK sends a message to English Prime Minister Tony Blair about, er, the spread of genetically engineered seeds from the US.

photo courtesy Greenpeace

BY BRIAN TOKAR

Some activists used to dismiss genetic engineering and other biotechnologies as ideas recently emerged from science fiction, as problems that could safely be put on the back burner. Compared to the rapid loss of species and habitat, global climate changes, and the chemical poisoning of our air, water and soil, biotechnology seemed to be a relatively distant concern. Today, the situation looks very different.

Last year, 50-million acres of genetically engineered crops were grown in the US, and almost 70-million acres were grown worldwide. Mice, cows and even human embryos were successfully cloned. Monsanto, the main purveyor of PCBs, dioxin, Agent Orange and Roundup, continued buying up major commercial seed companies. It now controls 25 to 35 percent of US corn acreage and potentially 85 percent of the US cotton seed market. Monsanto is the most aggressive promoter of genetic engineering in agriculture and is attempting to license the so-called Terminator technology, which renders seeds sterile. But it is only one of the global biotech giants that now pose a serious threat to the survival of life on Earth.

The profound ecological consequences of genetic engineering are just beginning to be appreciated by environmentalists. But the more we know, the more we uncover potentially catastrophic long-term consequences.

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Mrs. Claws Refutes 12 Myths, Accusations and Obfuscations About Santa's Helpers

BY MRS. CLAWS

1. Burning things is easy

In an attempt to make civil disobedience (CD) seem more noble, some would like to dismiss the Vail fires as a simple and careless act of flicking a Bic. However, a close examination of what happened last October reveals an action that required much research, expertise and commitment. The saboteurs knew where Vail was most vulnerable, and they knew the terrain. They torched a mile-long series of targets at 11,000 feet above sea level. According to an incendiary manual, 10 gallons of fuel is needed to destroy a small building; a larger building requires more fuel. This means the elves had to carry in over 800 pounds of fuel at night through deep snow. They pulled this off at an altitude that would later cause arson investigators to be ill just from walking around. Like true elves, they were able to blend into the landscape, slipping past all the hunters and hikers that swarm the mountainside in early fall. They knew the area well enough to elude police blockades and helicopter searches. If this raid was similar to published accounts of Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arson attacks, then there would've been lookouts, radio communications, monitoring of police frequencies, timing devices, getaway vehicle(s) and weeks of reconnaissance.

2. The timing was poor

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) delivered their fiery warning to Vail only hours before construction was set to begin. Impartial observers would view this as masterful timing. Those who think otherwise probably disagree with the action as a whole and would be unable to come up with a better time. The ELF struck only days after the legal battle over an injunction was lost. Presumably they had to wait for no wind, no moon and no security. They couldn't wait too long as the start of ski season was only two weeks away and employees would soon be in the buildings getting them ready. Suppose the elves had waited for a time when there were no protesters in the woods: No blockade is able to keep loggers from walking past and cutting trees further on. So by waiting, the ELF would've been stuck with a situation where their raid occurred after many or maybe all of the trees were already on the ground.

3. Civil disobedience and sabotage shouldn't occur together

This is an obtuse way of saying that the ELF intruded on Ancient Forest Rescue's (AFR) turf. But who can say whether it was AFR or ELF that started planning their respective actions first? Both groups waited until after the legal challenges were exhausted. The logistics of the arson attack required as much planning and preparation as any lockdown. Do monkeywrenchers have to abandon their plans whenever any group wants to do CD?

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Tripods Shut Buffalo Trap for a Month *(and Counting)*

BY DAN BRISTER AND SUE NACKONEY

As dawn broke over snow-covered trees and distant mountains on January 25, two tripods blocked a US Forest Service road accessing the site of a new buffalo trap at Horse Butte, near West Yellowstone, Montana.

For more than a month, sitters have occupied two platforms suspended from the tripods, weathering blizzards, gale-force winds and temperatures dipping below -30 degrees. In the past few weeks, three additional tripods, interlocked with cross-beams, have appeared. There are now a total of 17 poles in the tripods, one for each buffalo killed this winter by the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL). In statements to the press, DOL executive officer Marc Bridges said the trap, which would capture buffalo on their prime winter range, would be operational by February 1. Thanks to the blockade and sitters, who have vowed to stay until plans for the pens are scrapped, the livestock agency hasn't been able to access the building site.

Tripod sitters vow to stay until the capture pen plans are scrapped.

photo by Matthew McGovern-Rowen

In addition to buffalo, Horse Butte provides habitat for bald eagles, grizzly bears, lynx, black-backed woodpeckers, boreal owls, trumpeter swans, wolverines and many other critters. The Chief Joseph wolf pack has been spotted on the butte.

The facility would capture and test migrating buffalo for the disease brucellosis.

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

POB 1415 • EUGENE, OREGON 97440 • (541) 344-8004

GOODNIGHT TRIXIE

At the last two Organizers Conferences, when we introduce ourselves and the campaigns we work on, I've said, "Hi, my name is Lacey, I used to be an activist but now I work at the *Journal*." It's funny that three years ago when I applied, I told the then-editors I wanted to work at the paper so I could pursue my two most passionate interests—writing and activism. Truth be told, I've done neither, though I have learned more about grammar, copy editing, nonprofit management and computer maintenance than I ever wanted.

Despite all my moaning about the uniquely trying circumstances of working at the *Journal*, I realize now that we all tackle trades and acquire skills we never sought out in order to fill roles we see vacant in the movement.

During the past two years, I've found and discarded all sorts of different visions of this movement, seeing us as everything from nonviolent revolutionaries to disgruntled, dysfunctional outcasts. My assumptions about whether such an amorphous body as "the movement" can even be said to exist have been challenged. My newest theory is that we are just a group of individuals who, at best, can be said to be acquiring compatible technical skills to advance a shared agenda. But, then what distinguishes us from any other group of people who generally want to do good or push a shared agenda?

As insular and dogmatic as it sounds, I think the depth of our passion and sincerity of our commitment is what distinguishes Earth First! There are people all over who fight for the wild, but if you truly love wilderness and you truly will fight for it, in this country you call yourself Earth First! (unless of course you're working undercover).

While working here, I've had the great fortune to meet, berate, cajole, debate and create with many such dedicated activists. And then I've known all the dysfunctional, egotistical, manipulative, sadistic fucks who see the *Journal* as the closest thing to the playground on which to establish alpha activist status.

Truly though, I'm not bitter. For every time I've been called a racist or received a dressing down from an ego-head, some crazy loony-toon comes along and provokes me into maniacal laughter. Sometimes it feels like the *Journal* house is the backstage of the movement, and you wouldn't believe what you learn when you're on the inside looking in. Just today I read submissions about tofu cookies, Noam Chomsky's Zionist bent, the environmental program of Jehovah's Witnesses and this one about UN troops in the Pacific Northwest:

"Last summer, areas north of where I live in the Northwest had UN, Chinese and Russian troops playing around in the boonies and this infiltration is only one drop in the bucket of what's being set up... Other dimensional 'visitors,' who have given some indication of their overview, have said it will be a war beyond anything seen before."

(Er, thanks for the submission.)

And then, when even the wingnuts can't make it better anymore, someone from the secret underground network of workaholics who keep this whole show running reinspires me. You know who you are—the people who shy away from the camera, who still bother to do the grunt work, who return my goddamn phone calls and aren't always whining when your late-but-more-important-than-everyone-else's article doesn't get in.

Oh yes... not bitter. If the two worst things about working here are my co-dependent relationship with Trixie (the computer) and taking more than our share of undeserved flak, the best thing has been working with you all. I'm one of those people who cares a great deal about the integrity people display in high pressure work situations but very little about one's ability to carry on interesting small talk at a party. The integrity, work ethic, sincerity and dedication of the best people in this movement is what keeps me moving, as well as the inspiration of working firsthand with radical activists around the globe—the lifeblood of this increasingly international movement. (How ironic that the fight against globalization is what brings us all together.) Likewise, working with the *Journal* staff has been one of the most trying and fulfilling experiences of my life.

Some nights when I ride my bike home after a 12-hour day, I have to train my eyes to look left and right again because I've been staring ahead at the computer all day. Other days, huffing up the Willamette hill, with the sunshine falling just so through the shadows of the trees, I've felt extremely content working here in Eugene. But maybe too much contentment isn't healthy for an aspiring revolutionary, so I'm off to travel. I'll miss you all, but I look forward to seeing you again soon—on the frontlines.

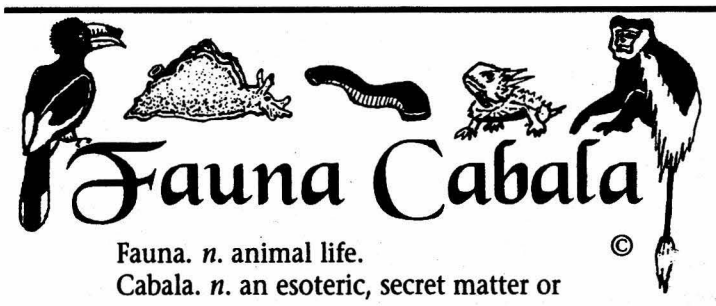
—LACEY PHILLABAUM

In Memoriam

The movement lost a warrior on February 15 when Shawnee EF!er, Dave "Batman" Beals, 27, lost his life in a motorcycle accident. Dave was a tireless defender of Southern Illinois wildness, which he fought for with a humor and love that can never be replaced. Dave is an inspiration to all who knew him. The forests and EF! have lost a friend. We love you Dave.

In early March, three US activists were killed while working with the U'wa people of northern Columbia. The cause of their deaths is being investigated. Ingrid Washinawatok, 41, Terence Freitas, 24, and Lahe'ena'e Gay, 39, were helping the U'wa fight the legal and political battle against Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum which is trying to unearth vast amounts of oil on the indigenous land. The three will be missed by those left behind.

Errata: Last issue we incorrectly reported that the Millions for Mumia rally is on March 24. It will take place on April 24.



Fauna. *n.* animal life.
Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

BY FAITH WALKER

Sperm shedding is pervasive in mammals, from deer to rats to cats. It can be spontaneous or deliberate and occurs even when females are willing to mate. Shedding sperm is an integral part of the sex life of some primates, such as humans or rhesus monkeys, who will masturbate to ejaculation even with full access to fertile females. In humans, as the time since the last copulation exceeds 72 hours, males become more likely to masturbate, usually less than 48 hours before the next mating. Sperm have a limited shelf life so such autoerotism removes the elderly from the next ejaculate. The result is that sperm are more viable and competitive, and more are retained by the female.

However, it isn't as simple as the more sperm inseminated the merrier. There's a trade-off between too much sperm, the enzymes of which can kill the egg or cause deadly multiple fertilization, and not enough sperm to swamp out that of rival males. Thus, males unconsciously adjust ejaculate size based on whether or not their mate copulates with others. Males inseminate more when the risk of sperm competition (rival ejaculates competing within a female for access to the egg) is higher.

In humans, male masturbation fits in well with anatomical and physiological evidence for sperm competition. The human penis is relatively longer than that of our closest relatives (congratulations) and the sperm count is high, allowing lots of sperm to be liberated far up the female reproductive tract. This is in contrast, for example, to gorillas, who have no risk of sperm competition because multiple females live and mate with only a single male, who has a tiny penis and small testes. Thus, over evolutionary time, human males must have been confronted with a high probability that their mates had or would soon copulate with another male, and this selected for the delivery of young, vigorous sperm close to the egg, via masturbation, a long penis, and large ejaculates.

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Earth First! Journal is a forum for the no-compromise environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and correspondents. The contents do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of this newspaper, the Earth First! movement, local Earth First! groups or individual Earth First!ers.

Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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SCHEDULE

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April 6

Is Relevance Irrelevant?

A New Concept to Justify Industrial Wreckreation

BY SCOTT SILVER, WILD WILDERNESS

Over the past few years, the concept of "relevance" has crept up on us as might a ship steaming though dense fog. The essence of this *Titanic* issue is captured in the following short excerpt from *The Seattle Times* (January 18, 1999):

"About 550 people from across the nation, many of them from community organizations representing African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos and other ethnic minorities, gathered for a traditional blessing by an American Indian of the Pomo Tribe before attending workshops last week with such titles as: 'National Parks: Places of Isolation or Inclusively?' and 'Achieving a National Park System Relevant to All Americans.'

"Bowser [a National Park Service employee] said she is frustrated that the service has moved so slowly toward making the parks inviting to everyone, 'We are not very good about going out to people,' she said. 'There is a strong tendency of the parks to promote this white, outdoorsy image. They have an image of being for upper-middle class white America.'"

The concept of relevance is about to crash upon a public largely unaware of its impending arrival. It's already the battle cry of the wise use American Recreation Coalition (ARC). The staunchly anti-environmental Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK) now champions it. Relevance is the subject of a memorandum of understanding between the Walt Disney Company and seven federal land management agencies. It is an issue that is so politically correct that it is challenged at one's own peril.

It is with great trepidation that I broach the topic. And let there be no doubt, I do so with no hint of disrespect or prejudice to those members of our society whose input is *supposedly* being courted. I challenge the concept of relevance because of who is doing the courting, and I most vigorously question their motivation. Are these corporate promoters of industrial-strength recreation and tourism really asking for input from an underrepresented segment of the population, or are they attempting to manufacture public opinion and consent? Should relevance even be considered as a management criterion for the protection and preservation of public lands? Should we make public lands relevant to a nation of people who are increasingly disconnected from nature, or should we protect nature because we believe "in wildness is the preservation of the world," as Thoreau said.

The current industrial recreation and tourism agenda depends upon recreating nature and turning it into a vast array of readily consumable products. In today's popular culture, there is nothing more relevant than commercialism and consumption. To make wild lands more relevant is to make them more commercial. Or as the other side might say: to make wild lands more commercial is to make them more relevant!

The promulgators of this agenda to commercialize, privatize and motorize America's public lands are being met with increasing resistance from the traditional voices of public lands protection. Those outdoorsy types (as Bowser called them) have no desire to see nature Disneyfied, and they actively resist attempts to do so.

The recreation industry, however, recognizes the value of creating an entirely new stakeholder in the public lands debate comprised of a segment of the population that has traditionally not participated, a group that currently does not consider conservation of public lands a personal priority issue.

In recent years recreation powerhouses such as Disney and REI have worked with anti-environmental congressmen such as Murkowski, Larry Craig, Jim Oberstar and Jim Hansen to create legislation and policy that would supposedly make the great outdoors more relevant to specific segments of the population. Though these segments are identified in terms that imply "persons of color, inner-city youth, the old and the infirm," these labels are but masks. The corporations and bureaucrats who would turn majestic mountains, rivers and deserts into mere backdrops upon which to construct nature-based entertainment products desperately need to garner input from anyone *other than* the voices traditionally associated with wild lands protection.

The issue of relevance is being shamelessly misused. The population being courted does not consist of any groups that can be characterized or labeled in ethnic terms. The groups being courted for participation in this debate are people, of any race or color, who are prepared to purchase outdoor recreation goods, services, lifestyles, amusements or landscapes.

On October 18, 1998, the US Forest Service issued a new document entitled: "The Natural Resource Agenda, A Strategy for Recreation." It stated: "We must continue to evolve from a steward of natural resources and custodian of recreation resources to a provider of wildlands and legacy experiences."

Imagine the potential environmental consequences if public land managers are really prepared to sacrifice stewardship of natural resources and custodial protection of our nation's few untrammeled lands to the god, Mammon, and his false prophet, relevance.

It is time to sound the alarm. A gigantic threat is bearing down upon our wildlands. If the concept of social relevance is being used as a ploy to promote the "Disneyfication of nature," then the traditional voices for wildland protection must prepare themselves to meet this new challenge.

As we close the 20th century, the field upon which public lands issues are being played is changing rapidly. Not only are the issues evolving but so are the players and the rules of engagement. In issues of wildland protection and preservation, social relevance is far less relevant than the application of sound science and unbiased objectivity.

For more information contact Wild Wilderness, 248 NW Wilmington Ave., Bend, OR 97701; (541) 385-5261; ssilver@wildwilderness.org; www.wildwilderness.org.

DEAR SFB

Send your deepest thoughts (300 words or less), POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440; earthfirst@igc.org

Dear Earth First!,

I have a... friend who often finds himself walking in the woods and feels inspired upon finding marked trees to desurvey them in hopes of deterring and interfering with logging practices. I, I mean, he was wondering how to determine exactly what each ribbon connotes. Are there different colors used by logging practices versus environmental surveys, etc.? He wants to know exactly what he's promoting or fighting. Any advise would be appreciated, and I'll pass on the information. Thanks. Peace.

—JOSH

Ed. Response: Word from the field-checking branch is that ribbons are used randomly to mark for different purposes, never a consistant method. This seems to be a theme all over national forests. For an "official" answer, call your local district ranger. By the way, is there such thing as a good ribbon in the forest?

—*JL*

Dear *EF!J*,

I just received my latest copy of the rag and was shocked by the first front page story about the Nazi shock-troops storming the peaceful protesters in Minnesota. Well, let me tell you, letters are already in the works to senators, congressmen, mayors, governors, etc., etc. I was a soldier for eight years and a cop for six and that makes me above anyone else. I know how serious the implications here are. When the government trains its police officers to be soldiers and then uses them in that way against an unarmed public, that is truly the beginning of the end. I swore two separate but similar oaths to protect the country and its people against all enemies foreign and domestic.

Well, I am having a real hard time figuring out who the enemy is here. The environmentalists were attempting to protect the land for everyone, and to have the courts back the actions of the Waffen SS storm troopers, over the innocent civilians, clearly defines who the enemy is here! We need to get national attention brought to light about this particular story. The ramifications of the authorities' actions are huge! If there is anything else I can do, please don't hesitate to respond and give me some suggestions.

Sincerely,

—SWAMP THING

Dear Earth First!

Someone left your calling card on my pick-up truck this morning [an I'm Polluting the Planet bumpersticker]. I find it ironic that the pollution generated from the production of the plastic and adhesive in your bumpersticker is far greater than the pollution emitted from my four cylinder truck. You are hypocrites in the worst way.

—ANONYMOUS

Dear Earth First!ers,

I was very touched by your courageous efforts that still are being persued in California and Oregon to protect the mighty redwoods, especially the story of David "Gypsy" Chain who I'm truly inspired by. I caught his story in *Earth First!* and *Rolling Stone*. And I believe what you do is a tremendous beauty in this greed driven society. I've written poems and sent them in his honor and for the "Medicine Tree." I believe a great deal is being done. I am in prison in Maryland and have limited access to information. *Earth First! Journal* is a godsend. I can only send good vibes and great praise for the people on the frontlines. Just to let you know that there are many who hear your voice and appreciate your cause 100 percent. I also liked what was done in Vail. How much property do they need huh? This is one admirer who respects no compromise because the corporate machine *does not* respect passivity. God bless and my prayers are with you. Give my love to all who preserve Mother Earth.

—JOEY

Earth First! Journalists,

The Dear Shit for Brains section of the *Journal* is becoming very monotonous. Are they written by the same people who write the "true" letters for porn magazines? It is my considered opinion that they all are written by the same person. Fake names, similar structure, similar content, etc. It's getting pretty boring! How many people named Treefrog, Whitetailed Deer and so on can there really be? Activism is one thing that should not be taken lightly. There are letters in SFB that border on the infantile. Do these "people" expect to be taken seriously? Sorry, it just doesn't work. Time to wake up and grow up!

P.S. Yes, it's my real name.

—PARK E. FURLONG

Ed. Response: I do believe the formula for a porn name is—the name of your first animal friend and then your middle name. Treefrog must have had hippie parents.

—*KW*

photo by Orin Langelle

BIODIVERSITY, NOT TECHNOLOGY

continued from front page

For example, researchers at Oregon State University have demonstrated that genetically engineered bacteria developed to digest crop wastes can suppress the growth of plants and severely alter soils. They encourage the spread of root-feeding nematodes and suppress populations of mycorrhizal soil fungi, which impart disease resistance and sustain the metabolism of old-growth trees and other native species. Many species of plants simply will not grow in the presence of these mutant microbes, as activists in Louisiana recently learned just in time to stop a planned series of field tests.

By crossing the species barrier, genetic engineers endow plants, animals and bacteria with unique combinations of genetic traits that have likely not previously existed in nature. Traits such as herbicide tolerance and pest resistance (the two most common uses of genetic engineering in agriculture today) are known to spread via pollen to neighboring crops and potentially to wild plants as well, creating "superweeds" and other ecological disruptions.

Genetically engineered food and fiber crops being grown commercially in the US are mostly of two types: those designed to resist high doses of toxic herbicides, from Roundup to the potent carcinogen bromoxynil, and those that secrete bacterial pesticides. Most of the new pest-resistant crops—potatoes, corn, cotton, rapeseed (canola) and others—contain a bacterial pesticide from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Sprays containing Bt have been used safely by organic growers for two decades and have also been used to inoculate forests against spruce budworm and gypsy moths. These large-scale sprayings began to reveal the side effects of Bt, particularly its toxic effects on a wide variety of moths and butterflies. The activated form of Bt toxin secreted by genetically engineered Bt crops has proved harmful to insects, such as honeybees, ladybugs and lacewings.

Biotechnology is beginning to influence forestry practices as well. Corporate, university and government laboratories are developing genetically altered nursery stocks that resist insects, viruses, frost or drought, grow faster and produce wood that is easier to process into lumber or pulp. The Canadian Forest Service is actively field testing genetically altered varieties of poplar, spruce and larch (introducing various corn and wheat genes, among others). An Australian company working in Indonesia has developed a cloned variety of eucalyptus tree that grows 40 feet in just a year, and researchers at the University of Georgia are developing engineered poplars that absorb mercury and other toxic wastes.

The implications of biotechnology for animal welfare are even more severe. By combining the technologies of genetic engineering, cloning and *in vitro* fertilization, new breeding stocks of domestic animals are being developed, and some are being raised as "bioreactors" to commercially produce drugs, hormones and even human proteins in their milk. We may not be far from the day when companies offer clones of their most productive livestock for sale to farmers, perhaps with genetic modifications that severely compromise the animals' health. We have already seen a glimpse of this with the rise in udder infections, reproductive disorders, birth defects and other problems from the use of genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) in dairy cows.

The human consequences are equally troubling. Soon, human cells may be cultivated in commercial laboratories for organ replacements and other therapies. Parents may be urged to select their future offspring from a preselected assortment of possible eggs and sperm. We are seeing the rise of a new eugenics movement, with scientists encouraging the development of inheritable forms of gene therapy. There often appears to be no end to the excesses of this powerful technology, nor to the hubris of its leading proponents. Ethical choices are pushed aside as society becomes ever more enslaved to the "free-market" dictum that whatever *can* be done *will* be done.

Life as Product

Biotechnology ultimately seeks to commodify all that is alive and bring all of life into the realm of commercial products by altering the patterns of nature so as to better satisfy the demands of the marketplace. Where nature is not well suited to continued exploitation, biotechnology offers the means to redesign life. Genetic engineering for herbicide resistance is advertised as *the* answer to the problems of monocrop agriculture. Where irrigation systems are faltering, it will make crops more resistant to drought and salt, instead of forcing a change in farm practices and decentralization of our food system. To solve the management problems of northern fish farms, scientists are trying to splice frost resistant genes from flounder into salmon. Biotechnology is seen as the perfect solution for a system that would impose capitalist standards of productivity on everything that is alive, while continuing its assaults on the integrity of living ecosystems.

The biotechnology industry is also in the forefront of patenting living things. It brought the agenda of life patenting into the European Parliament, as well as international agreements such as the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The US government has threatened trade sanctions against countries such as India that resist the patenting of life. Corporate bioprospectors are combing the entire biosphere, from the arctic, to the tropics, to deep within the Earth's boiling hot geysers, in search of DNA sequences to study, manipulate and patent. The patenting of human genes is also proceeding at a staggering pace, despite successful campaigns on behalf of three indigenous nations (from Panama, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea) to overturn the patenting of their genes by the US National Institutes of Health. In agriculture, biotech companies like Monsanto are aggressively prosecuting "seed pirates" who dare carry on the age-old practice of saving and replanting seeds.

Like many other technology-based industries in the recent past, biotechnology promises health, prosperity and the limitless expansion of human possibilities. The pronouncements of biotech advocates combine a rosy futurism with the air of scientific authority and inevitability. Still, most people remain skeptical. Despite a steady barrage of headlines and media presentations on biotechnology's wonders, people are genuinely concerned about both the immediate hazards and the long-range implications for life as we know it. Activists in Europe, India and elsewhere have not only exposed the profound underlying hazards of genetic engineering and other biotechnologies but tapped into a deeply ingrained skepticism toward viewing nature as an object to be manipulated and controlled. In Europe, the specter of Nazi eugenics hangs over discussions of genetic engineering and cloning. In India, the seed is a powerful cultural symbol and its manipulation and appropriation by capital is an abomination.

These concerns have bred powerful grassroots movements against genetic engineering and other biotechnologies. Activists in Europe have pressured their governments to limit imports of engineered corn and soybeans from the US and taken direct action against test plots of genetically engineered crops. In Britain, Germany and Switzerland, plants have been pulled out of the ground and put aside for disposal as toxic waste. Greenpeace has blockaded US grain shipments in many northern European ports, protesting the shippers' refusal to separate genetically engineered varieties from conventional ones. In India, hundreds of thousands of farmers have demonstrated against corporate control of seeds, and some have burned test plots of Monsanto's pesticide-secreting cotton varieties. Canadian activists joined with skeptical government scientists to successfully pressure their government to renew a moratorium on the use of a genetically engineered growth hormone for dairy cows. Many people, in these pages and elsewhere, have asked, why don't we have a movement like this in the United States?

A US Movement?

Actually, both the movement against biotechnology and its use of direct action originated right here in the US. In the 1970s, community activists and

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MONSANTO FINED FOR GENETIC POLLUTION

The controversy surrounding genetically modified food heated up recently when Monsanto, the world's biggest promoter of genetically modified products, was fined £317,000 for "genetic pollution."

In the first prosecution of its kind in Britain, the Health and Safety Executive charged the company with failing to prevent pollen from genetically modified crops from being released into the environment at a trial site in Lincolnshire. Monsanto admitted the offence and was ordered to pay an additional £36,159 in costs.

Another company charged with a similar offence at the same site, seed producer Perryfields Holdings, was fined £314,000 and ordered to pay costs of £35,000. Friends of the Earth denounced Monsanto's fine as "pathetic."

The case was another setback for the government in its attempt to convince the public that genetically modified food plants present no risk in cultivation or consumption.

William Hague, the Leader of the Opposition, said legislation to impose a three-year genetically modified crop moratorium would be introduced. Monsanto immediately vowed to fight any British moratorium on genetically modified crops by appealing to the European Commission.

Both Monsanto and Perryfields were growing varieties of oilseed rape that had been genetically modified to be tolerant of particular weedkillers. A condition of their licenses was that a six-metre-wide pollen barrier of non-genetically modified crops be kept around the modified crops, to prevent modified pollen from mixing with normal plants in the area. But an inspection found that the pollen barrier had been cut back in some places to just two metres to put in a roadway and improve the site's appearance. A gap between the genetically modified crops and the pollen-barrier crops created a "wind tunnel," allowing pollen to escape. Simon Parrington, for the prosecution, said no one from either company bothered to visit the site to see if the terms of their licenses were being followed.

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skeptical scientists joined to oppose the construction of special containment labs for early experiments in gene splicing in a number of university communities. Citizen review boards were established in several cities to monitor researchers' compliance with safety and ethics guidelines.

In 1983, researchers at the University of California obtained the federal government's approval for the first outdoor release of a genetically engineered organism, a soil bacterium altered to resist frost. The release was held up for several years by lawsuits and other interventions but finally took place in the spring of 1987, under the auspices of a private company spun off from the university. The night before the so-called Frostban bacteria were to be tested on a field of strawberry blossoms, Earth First!ers and others scaled a barbed wire fence and evaded on-site security, pulling nearly 2,000 plants out of the ground without being detected (see *EF!J*, June-July, 1987). At daybreak, the company hurriedly stuffed the uprooted strawberry plants back into the ground so its spraying of engineered bacteria could be staged for the scores of reporters and TV cameras that had assembled for the historic occasion.

Two more actions were staged, both at university and corporate test plots. By 1989, the company that aspired to symbolize the dawning of the Age of Biotechnology had withdrawn its application for any further tests in California.

By the middle 1990s, both corporations and universities were actively developing genetically engineered crops, and hundreds of field tests were being carried out, with permits from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency, in nearly every state in the US. Two staff members at the National Wildlife Federation, now with the Union of Concerned Scientists, initiated a quarterly newsletter documenting these tests and summarizing their pioneering research on the possible ecological consequences of these experiments. Unfortunately, activist energies were largely focused elsewhere.

One positive development during this period was partly due to the initiative of a lone Wisconsin dairy farmer named John Kinsman. Kinsman discovered that the student union at the University of Wisconsin in Madison was serving ice cream made with milk from cows that were being injected with experimental Bovine Growth Hormone. He traveled to Madison in midwinter and began standing in front of the union with a sign explaining what the students were unknowingly consuming. Kinsman's one-person campaign helped spark a nationwide alliance of farmers and citizens that delayed by several years the government's approval of Monsanto's brand of the engineered rBGH for commercial use.

Once Monsanto's rBGH became the first genetically engineered product to significantly impact our food supply, efforts to sustain public opposition to the hormone focused largely on media and legislation. Meanwhile, the Minnesota-based Pure Food Campaign coordinated demonstrations in response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of the hormone, including several high-profile public milk-dumpings in major cities. Over 100 school districts from Chicago to Los Angeles passed resolutions against rBGH products in their cafeterias, and lawsuits were filed against the FDA for blatant conflicts of interest among the staff responsible for the product's approval. But activists around the country focused much of their effort on trying to label rBGH dairy products.

Today, genetic engineering in agriculture has reached far beyond the experimental stage. Not only are tens of millions of acres of engineered crops being grown—with virtually no monitoring of the consequences—but the US government is aggressively promoting these crops worldwide. Efforts to limit imports of engineered corn and soybeans from the US by the governments of Ireland and France were met with forceful counter-lobbying by top officials of the Clinton administration, including National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and "environmental" Vice President Al Gore. Dan Glickman, US Secretary of Agriculture, has traveled across Europe threatening a trade war if European countries restrict imports of biotech crops. It may be too late for field actions, such as those in California in the 1980s and across Europe in the '90s, to have a significant impact on the development of genetic engineering in the United States.

In New England, we are working on a somewhat different approach. Along with expanded public education in the streets, town halls and even the aisles of our local supermarkets, we are looking into the sources of genetically engineered seeds. Many farmers are being sold on new "herbicide tolerant" and "pest resistant" varieties of corn, potatoes, soybeans and other crops without being told that they are genetically engineered. We are researching the companies responsible for these sales efforts and plan to focus actions toward them, rather than the farmers. One company well-renowned by organic farmers and gardeners in New England, Johnny's Selected Seeds, is being targeted for a boycott due to a disclaimer in its 1999 catalog saying it may carry genetically engineered seeds in the future. We are also investigating the growing ties between the region's leading state universities and the biotechnology industry and are planning a series of teach-ins and demonstrations to expose them.

Demonstrations in the streets and at supermarkets around the country are being staged to highlight both the horror and the absurdity of genetically engineered food. Activists with the Hexterminators collective in Berkeley, California, have been hitting the streets in costume, explaining the hazards of biotechnology to their neighbors, and a national campaign focusing on Monsanto's threat to life is also being planned. An international conference of biotech opponents in St. Louis last summer featured a colorful demonstration at Monsanto headquarters in suburban Creve Coeur, hopefully the first of many. Three global days of action against genetic engineering in 1997 and '98 brought people into the streets of dozens of US cities.

There is lots of new energy in the movement against genetic engineering, but this is just a beginning. Over 200,000 people wrote to the USDA last year to object to government plans to allow genetically engineered foods to be labeled organic. But the urgency of stopping commercial uses of genetic engineering reaches far beyond food issues. We need to learn from our sisters and brothers in Europe and Asia and develop a people's movement against biotechnology that can meaningfully hold back this industry's mounting assaults on the integrity of life on earth.

For more information contact NE Resistance Against Genetic Engineering, c/o ISE, POB 89, Plainfield, VT 05667; Hexterminators, c/o http://www.artactivist.com; Genetic Engineering Network (UK), genetics@gn.apc.org; Biodevastation Network, c/o Gateway Green Alliance, POB 8094, St. Louis, MO 63156; Bioengineering Action Network, POB 11703, Eugene, OR 97440; ban@tao.ca. Also check out the Sept./Oct. 1998 issue of *The Ecologist*, a special issue on Monsanto and biotechnology.

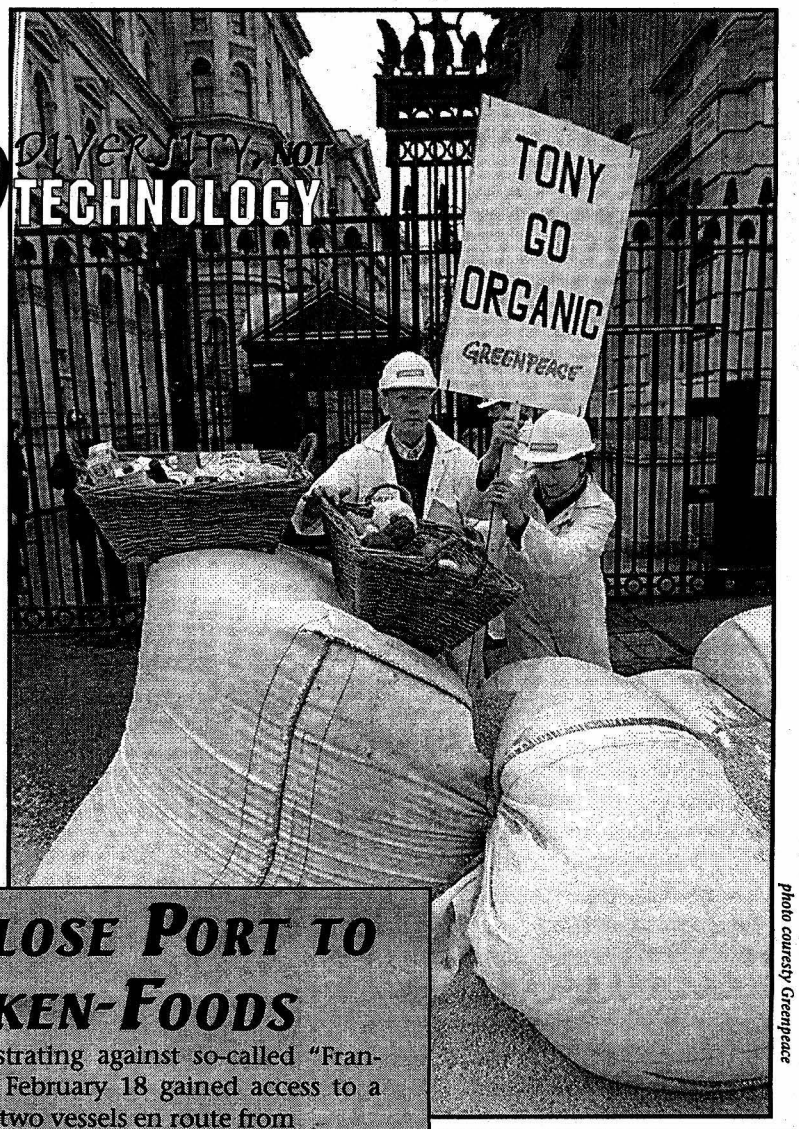


photo courtesy Greenpeace

Brits Close Port to Franken-Foods

Protesters demonstrating against so-called "Frankenstein" foods on February 18 gained access to a British port to await two vessels en route from America carrying genetically modified maize and corn. Their presence prevented the ships, *Utviken* and *Huta Katowice*, from unloading.

Four Greenpeace activists secured themselves inside an unloading crane at the Seaforth grain terminal. "They did a magnificent job to get in there because of the large police presence," said the spokeswoman. "Our people have been stopped and generally hampered all day. But they are all well trained and very experienced. They are comfortable and have got provisions. They will stay there as long as it takes."

Inflatable boats also intended for the protest at the port were impounded by police as they traveled to Liverpool. A Merseyside police spokeswoman said, "In the early hours of Thursday, February 18, Merseyside Police and the Cheshire Constabulary conducted a joint operation, the objective of which was to prevent disruptive activity in respect of commercial shipping in the region. Over 30 officers were deployed in searching a number of people—13—and their vehicles. No arrests were made. Both forces are continuing to monitor the situation."

Funky Tofu Tidings to the British Big Wig

English protesters dumped four tonnes of genetically modified soya beans outside Prime Minister Tony Blair's official residence on February 18. Greenpeace activists targeted Blair after his spokesman said he was happy to consume genetically modified (GM) food. "We are taking these GM soya beans to one of the few homes in the UK where they want to eat it," a Greenpeace spokeswoman said.

The government appears to be considering changing tack on the wider issue of growing genetically modified crops after tremendous public outcry against the practice. Some members of parliament have said recently that they are interested in extending the moratorium on growing genetically modified food in Britain after previously insisting no reason existed for doing this. The environment minister has said a ban on the commercial growing of genetically modified foods could be extended until more became known about the effects on health and the environment. "I believe in the current climate the industry will agree to it," he said. "If they do not, we will use the legislative instruments that are necessary to achieve it."

Friends of the Earth director Charles Secrett drew encouragement from such remarks, saying, "The U-turn has started, but the government has further to go. A voluntary agreement is not enough. We are calling for a clear freeze on commercial growing of genetically modified crops until scientific research has been completed, published and debated."

Friends of the Earth has also recently made public a leaked government report expressing fears about the risks posed by genetically modified foods.

Tieing the Knot

Hug a Racist, Save a Whale—an Opinion

BY JIM PAGE

There's an old saying: "Mussolini made the trains run on time." It's a warning about tunnel vision. Among other things it says that single-issue activism can make for strange and dangerous bedfellows. Case in point: the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) and the campaign to save the gray whale. There's a thread here that I would like to investigate. I am not trying to slander or demean anybody's efforts. I hope this criticism is taken in the spirit in which it is given.

The Makah Nation on Washington's Pacific Coast received legal permission via its treaty rights to reinstate the gray whale hunt in October 1998. The SSCS, headed by Paul Watson, along with several other organizations, was determined to stop the hunt.

Though Paul Watson and Lisa are very committed activists, their ideology seems to pit nature against humanity as a whole and makes no real distinctions between the different power grids of our social existence. Human societies are not flat. They have classes and histories; there is no "humanity" in an abstract sense. The world of human existence, with all of its dynamic tensions and struggles, affects the Earth and in many ways is creating a disaster. I see two choices: complete depletion of the human population or an intentional radical shift in our power relations. I choose the second. In order to save the Earth, you have to change the world.

Paul says, "I am, in fact, unapologetic for my biocentric views, and yes I put nature before the interests of humanity." But humanity is a part of nature. It is our social systems that create the problem, not the fact that we exist. And so it is society that must be changed.

Several years ago Lisa wrote a piece in the *Sea Shepherd Log*, describing Paul's ancestors arriving in Canada, encountering old-growth forests, clear-running water, and beautiful wild animals. The presence of people, of whom there were many at the time, was conspicuously absent. A few paragraphs later she described how Paul was like a distant relative of hers who was a pirate in the Louisiana Territories and was one of a handful of brave men who had the foresight and courage to fight alongside Andrew Jackson against the French. If it wasn't for men like Andrew Jackson, she said, "we wouldn't have this great country of ours." Jackson, if you recall, was the architect and chief prosecutor of the Trail of Tears, the forced removal in which roughly half of the population of several Native nations were killed. Jackson boasted that he never met an Indian he didn't kill and never killed an Indian he didn't scalp. Lisa's comparison of these two men is disturbing. You can't make this kind of a statement without being ignorant or prone to tunnel vision. I think, in this case, it's the latter.

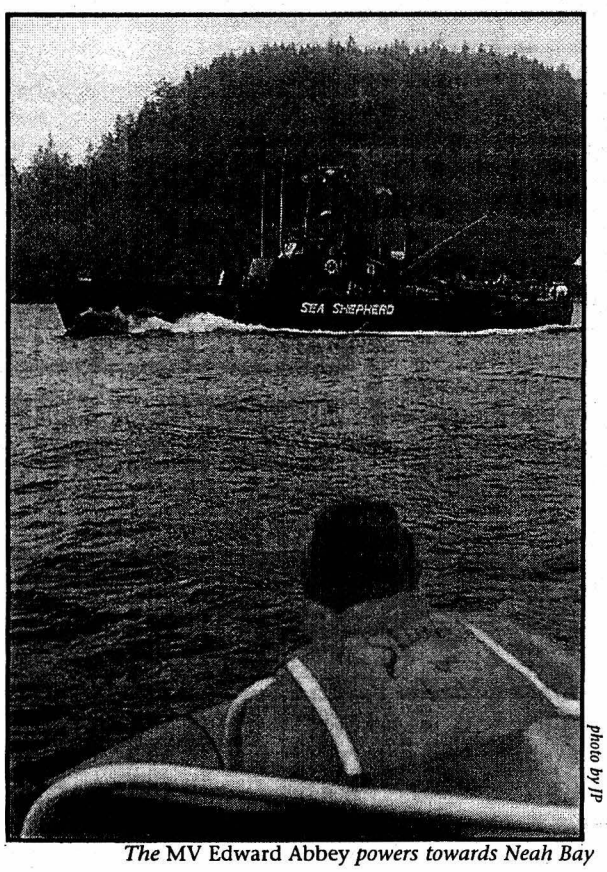


photo by JP

The MV Edward Abbey *powers towards Neah Bay*

I bring this old stuff up because there's a pattern. In their efforts to stop the Makah whale hunt, Watson and company have enlisted the aid of Congressman Jack Metcalf, a well known anti-Indian politician. His father, John Metcalf, was a member of the Silver Shirts, a Nazi-support group during the '40s. These days Jack Metcalf calls on Congress to "abrogate all existing treaties..." He has introduced bills to make it more difficult for Indian people to petition for federal recognition. In 1985 he was cochair of Redeem Our Country, a right wing, anti-federal group. Other cochairs included anti-Semite Eustace Mullins and arch-segregationist John Rarick. The group's advisory board included white-supremacist Christian Identity advocates and a columnist from *The Spotlight* (an anti-Semitic right wing conspiracy paper) As an influential anti-immigration spokesman, Metcalf cosponsored an attempt to overturn the 14th Amendment with a further amendment barring children born in the US from receiving automatic citizenship. He has received a 100 percent rating from both the anti-immigrant lobby, US Border Control and the Christian Coalition.

The partnership began when the SSCS contacted Metcalf and, according to its own writings, "initiated the effort to develop the letter [an official "letter of objection"] with Metcalf's staff in early 1997." The letter was presented at a press conference on board the *Sea Shepherd*. Other press conferences followed. Jack introduced a resolution to the House urging the government to "strengthen its position against commercial whale hunts by all renegade whaling nations." On the SSCS web site there's a piece urging readers to "write Congressman Metcalf and tell him you support his efforts." It does not warn you to watch out for his overall right-wing, anti-Indian agenda. In fact, Metcalf is only spoken of in positive terms.

From the journals of Lisa Distefano, November 4, 1998 (published on the SSCS web site):

"The decision was made to hold a press conference on Wednesday with Congressman Jack Metcalf in Sieku. (Fortunately, he won his re-election bid the day before!) Buoyed by his victory, on a wave of righteousness that comes over one when one's belief triumphs, he was impassioned. Metcalf is a survivor. A whale-loving Republican... who would have thought? Many attack him and say he's no friend of the environment. But he's a friend of Buddy [a whale]. And right now, that's all that counts. He stands to lose, as well. He doesn't represent just the desires of his constituency, he owns a local bed and breakfast."

I have actually heard Paul Watson claim that the Makah are like the KKK in the days of the Mississippi Freedom Rides. This means that SSCS is the Freedom Riders, and the whales are the unregistered Black voters. It would be an understatement to say that this is stretching things a bit.

The Makah's 1855 treaty created a "trust requirement" that the US government advocate for their treaty rights, including the right to whale. The Makah stopped hunting in the 1920s when the gray whale population faced extinction, mainly due to commercial whalers. Today, gray whale populations have recovered. They are no longer considered endangered. The US government supports the hunt because it is forced to by its own laws. When the SSCS calls for the government to withdraw its advocacy, it is, in effect, calling for the abrogation of the treaty, just as Metcalf has done. Our boy Jack, and his right-wing cammo buddies, have clamored for years that, "Indians have special rights" and that therefore the rest of us "ordinary citizens" should support his work to dismantle their status. Up here in the Northwest, he has concentrated on fishing issues. So the whale hunt was right down his alley.

To defend himself against charges of racism, Watson refers to, among other things, the fact that he served as a medic for the American Indian Movement at the Wounded Knee uprising in 1973. True as that may be, that was 26 years ago and doesn't have much bearing on current events. It's not what you did, it's what you do. To his credit he told me in a letter that, "We are sponsoring a lawyer for her [Alberta Thompson, one of the few Makah speaking out against the hunt] and paying her benefits in the meantime."

But wait, there's more: Watson has formed another interesting alliance. Brigitte Bardot, the famous French film star, joined him in 1977 to stop a Canadian seal hunt. She planned to participate again in '98 but had to bag out due to mechanical difficulties. I heard Paul explain to an audience a few years back that her presence was important as a way to get "media attention." Brigitte Bardot is well known for her commitment to animal rights. But, according to Robert Crawford of the Coalition for Human Dignity, she is also a "prominent opponent of Muslim religious rights, a venomous anti-immigrant spokesperson and an ally of the National Front, France's leading neo-fascist political party." Her husband, Bernard d'Ormale, is a National Front activist. She is quoted as saying, "Now my country, France, my homeland, is with the blessing of successive governments again invaded by a foreign, especially Moslem, overpopulation to which we pay allegiance." (Just last year Watson, Farley Mowat and Dave Foreman signed on to a campaign to get the Sierra Club to advocate immigration reduction. Remember that?) Is the thread thick enough yet?

Wanting to defend nature is not enough. There are forces that will fight beside you for their own twisted reasons. And misanthropy, just like racism, is a dangerous tendency when there is any sort of activism involved.

Which brings us back to changing the world to save the Earth. There must be a better way to save the whales than enlisting the aid of known fascists. Relationships between Indians and white environmentalists are strained enough as it is. A whale hunt is a messy business that most of us would just as soon have no part of. But most of us don't come from a whaling culture. Most of us come from the dominator culture that kicked the shit out of the Native whalers, and we hold onto our positions of superiority by claiming a high moral ground and practicing an institutional ignorance.

Paul says, "I am opposing Japan and Norway at Neah Bay—not the Makah." I believe him. However, Jack Metcalf is opposing the Makah, and the SSCS has actually endorsed this man, as well as Brigitte Bardot. When Watson and company leave Neah Bay, Metcalf will have achieved a higher standing in the minds of many people who, out of the goodness of their hearts, would like to protect the natural world.

It comes back to that old idea that nature needs to be saved from humans, period. But all humans aren't the same. There's a difference between Rigoberta Menchu and Charles Hurwitz. Considering the speed at which we are dismantling the planet, there is an urgent need to address these differences, which probably means expanding the definition of "environment" into its more holistic meaning of "the circumstances, objects or conditions by which one is surrounded." This includes the workplace, the home, the street, the forest and international historical treaty relations. We have to. They clearcut people too.

The Knot Unravels

Sea Shepherd Responds

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE

As Jim Page is fond of historical analogies, we invite him to consider his close resemblance to those public-spirited American "investigators" of the late '40s and early '50s who made it their mission to probe into the background, associations and family trees of sundry public officials, entertainers, school teachers, business rivals, etc. and who would then call up network heads, sponsors, employers and Congressional committees in order to relay "evidence" of any taint of communist leanings or influence.

The character assassin never lived who has not hoped his solicitous concern would "be taken in the spirit in which it is given."

Page has previously scolded us for enforcing the United Nations ban on high seas driftnetting because the prime violators of the ban were Japanese and Taiwanese nationals. Hence, Sea Shepherd's actions, which saved countless dolphins, sea turtles, sharks, whales and seals, were racist. He now scolds us for associating with the wrong sort of people while enforcing the International Whaling Commission's ban on nonsubsistence whale hunting because the people who want to break that ban are members of an American Indian tribe.

Page's brand of political correctness is of the all-consuming variety that leads to total paralysis. It is also profoundly racist in that it ascribes inherent goodness and moral justification to any action taken by an individual by virtue of his or her membership in an ethnic group. One dose of historical reality: The Makah whale hunt was indeed "discontinued when the gray whale population was faced with extinction, mainly due to commercial whalers." The Makah stopped hunting whales because their profits were declining, and there was far more money to be made in hunting seals. But when the Yankee whalers came to the Pacific Northwest, the Makah signed on as harpooners. (They *were* the commercial whalers, Jim.) Page also ignores the tribe's close business relationship to Maruha/Taiyo, the Japanese fisheries giant that has been at the center of virtually every major pirate whaling scheme in the last 30 years. He also ignores the documented interest of the Makah Tribal Council in the commercial slaughter and sale of virtually every species of marine mammal to be found in the Pacific Northwest.

Page makes it clear that he considers Sea Shepherd's approach politically naive and simplistic. In fact, we are aware that political reality encompasses a far broader, deeper and more subtle spectrum than Page's analysis permits. For Page, Congressman Metcalf is Spiro Agnew is Adolf Hitler. Jack Metcalf is, in fact, a political maverick who votes his conscience, associates with whomever he pleases and relates to people as individuals rather than as ciphers representing a political viewpoint. If Metcalf was the standard-issue right-wing Republican from central casting that Page wants him to be, he would certainly not associate himself with the likes of us. His handlers would keep him away. In fact, Metcalf disavows our tactics. He is on our side for one reason: He likes whales. He grew up with them in Puget Sound. His dad taught him to respect them, and his childhood love for the species never left him. We stepped into the Makah whale hunt issue early on, and since no mainstream enviro group will dare touch this exceedingly hot potato, Metcalf had no choice: We're it. So he's on our side.

The view of the Makah whale hunt as strictly a native rights issue and a clash of "ideologies that pit nature against humanity" is simplistic in the extreme. To make that argument, Page ignores messy facts that don't fit. More than a few Makah tribal elders have voiced their displeasure with the hot-dog venture capitalists of the Makah Tribal Council who have forsaken tradition and not respected or consulted the elders in their gung-ho, "Let's go hunt us some whales," approach.

Page's attempt to smear Metcalf with the sins of his father is as tortuous, pathetic and unworthy of response as his attempt to dismiss Paul Watson's service under fire as a medic to the American Indian Movement during the siege at Wounded Knee. He tries to concoct a pattern of anti-Indian racism out of a passing mention of Andrew Jackson in a four-year-old article by Lisa Distefano. Page asserts that Distefano said Jean LaFitte "had the foresight and courage to fight alongside Andrew Jackson against the French. She said if it wasn't for men like Andrew Jackson, 'We wouldn't have this great country of ours.'" Page then launches into his damning screed against the racism of Andrew Jackson, which he tries to tie to Distefano in his preferred guilt-by-association mode.

There are two errors in his argument, beyond its being the crudest kind of smear tactic. First, Andrew Jackson did not fight the French. He fought the British. Page's error does not greatly commend his historical analysis. His second error is more serious: He finds Distefano's lauding of Andrew Jackson to mean she must be either "really ignorant or prone to tunnel vision." Could be... except that Distefano never said what Page says she said. (Go back and read it again, Jim.) The closest she comes is: "Without Jean LaFitte, the United States of America would have been a far different place. President Jackson never would have been, and the British would have redefined the destiny of America and denied the vision and dreams of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Patrick Henry."

As difficult as it is to respond to a theory based on manufactured quotes, one is equally hard pressed to know how to respond to undigested philosophical nuggets like, "It's not what you did, it's what you do." With each rotation of the Earth and the dawn of a new day, what one does becomes what one did. And what one has done becomes what one is. Paul Watson can look back over the last 20 or 30 years and take considerable satisfaction in what he has done and the way he has done it.

Wolves & Poodles

A curious wolf with an extra large nose (all the better to smell you with, little piggies) to **Richard Bancroft**, a photographer who attempted to cover the raid on Minnesota's Minnehaha Free State (see *EF!J*, February-March, 1999). Bancroft was photo-documenting the abusive police behavior when he was knocked down, handcuffed and arrested by an overzealous cop. His camera was seized, and when it was returned three weeks later, all of the film had been removed.

A (who'da thunk it) wolf to **Helen Chenoweth** who in her first-ever act of environmental beneficence, announced recently that she won't be running for a fourth term. Idaho's Congressman Chenoweth (as she prefers to be called) is the infamously befuddled legislator whose statement that, "How can salmon be endangered when you can buy them in a can at Albertsons?" is typical of her environmental insight.

Continuing in the lobo-like politico vein, a **wolf** to the **European Parliament** for its February resolution insisting that US political prisoner Leonard Peltier be granted executive clemency. The resolution requires the European Parliament's delegates to the US to raise the case of Peltier at its next meeting with the US. In addition to the numerous injustices in the jailing of Peltier, the government is now denying him much needed medical attention.

A beret-clad, bike-riding wolf to the **city of Paris**, which will ban cars from the city center on September 22, along with 35 other French cities. Parisian Mayor Jean Tiberi called on other European capitols to join the movement for car-free days.

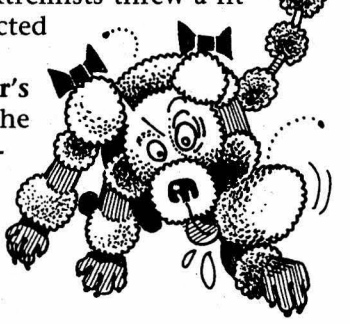
A big, fearsome wolf to the tiny, rare **Klamath shoulder band snail** on California's Klamath National Forest, for stopping the proposed Shotgun timber sale. The mollusk is one of 80 species that the US Forest Service is required to look for prior to approving timber sales, which the agency did only after agitation from the Etna, California-based Klamath Forest Alliance. The 3.5 million-board-foot Shotgun sale is on hold while the agency continues its snail surveys.

An air-headed poodle flunking doggy manner school to six **Pennsylvania school districts** that are funding the Allegheny Forest Alliance, a timber industry organization. Four of the districts voted to divert $75,000 from education funds to the alliance, headed by Donald Payne, who holds more than $3 million worth of national forest timber contracts. The schools forwarded the funds to the group in order to fight a lawsuit about overcutting on the Allegheny National Forest, which benefits the schools and counties because they are funded by timber industry revenues.

Yet **another poodle to** the alpha poodle himself, **Bruce Babbitt**, who recently heralded the great success of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). "In the near future, many species will by flying, splashing and leaping off the list. They made it. They are graduating," said Babbitt when he announced the delisting of 34 species. However, Babbitt's graduation roll call did more to highlight the terrible ineffectiveness of his agency at enforcing the ESA. Of the 34 species, five are extinct and 12 were listed based on inaccurate information. If graduating from the ESA requires extinction, may the rest of the species flunk miserably.

An extra fluffy, vain and prissy poodle to **Leonardo DiCaprio and 20th Century Fox film studio** for removing sand dunes, cutting native vegetation and introducing non-native species to a protected beach on Phi Phi Island, Thailand. The studio is accused of bribing local officials to get the go-ahead for the destruction while shooting the film, *The Beach*. Environmentalists filed suit against the film studio, but the case won't be heard until after filming is finished in March. Apparently, the destruction was undertaken in order to facilitate a football scene.

A cowardly po-po-poodle to **New Mexico Governor Johnson**, who was so scared by the report "The Extremist Right: An Overview," that he banned it. The report by the criminal intelligence section of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety found that anti-environmental wise use groups "may prove to be the most volatile and pose the greatest threat to law enforcement in the state." When anti-environmental extremists threw a fit about the report, the book-burning governor retracted it and ordered all copies returned and destroyed.



A car-happy poodle, drooling from the driver's side, to the **city of Boston**, which was declared the world's worst city for bike-riding by the International Federation of Bike Messengers. New legislation in the city requires bike messengers to carry greater insurance than taxi or automobile drivers, wear vests and carry three identifying licenses, even when not in traffic.

Frontlines

Forest Loving Religious Leaders Push for Zero Cut

Nearly 50 Christian and Jewish religious leaders converged on Capitol Hill February 3 to call for an end to the timber sale program on national forests and a halt to logging in ancient forests throughout Creation. Their visit culminated with a meeting at the White House, in which they urged the Clinton administration to issue an executive order to end logging on federal public lands.

The coalition, known as the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation, includes representatives of Catholicism, Judaism and nearly every Protestant denomination, including Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Methodist, Brethren and Eastern Orthodox. They recently held a prayer breakfast with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and have since visited over 100 congressional offices and met with US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck. For the groups, this is a moral issue. "The Bible teaches us to protect and care for God's Creation, not destroy it," said Amy Hanson, an organizer.

The Religious Campaign urges not only that all commercial logging be stopped on America's national forests but also that current logging subsidies be redirected into worker retraining, ecological restoration work and taxpayer savings.

Road Reclaimers Celebrate Newbury Anniversary

An anniversary march alongside the Newbury Bypass in England took place on January 11. Due to the lack of police in attendance, the road was quickly taken over for the whole afternoon by people pouring onto it and tearing down fences.

As the cars stopped and the queues began to build, the shiny new tarmac was quickly redecorated with suitable slogans, pictures and rocks. Trees were climbed, banners were hung, picnics were eaten and delayed drivers were talked to. Only one truck driver spoiled everyone's fun by plowing through the crowd; somehow people managed to jump out of the way.

The anniversary march commemorated the 1996 mass actions protesting the construction of the bypass. The new road sliced into uninhabited and undisturbed green space that is now accessible by the bypass. Even Tarmac, the company that built the heavily protested, environmentally unfriendly road through Twyford Down (M3), publicly declared the Newbury Bypass too environmentally damaging. Now housing sprawl is scheduled for the area.

The marchers ended the occupation just as the sun set, later regrouping for a candlelit gathering at Donnington Castle where words were spoken about the need for more direct action, especially in the face of upcoming laws made just for road reclaimers.

Sumatra Blockade

About 2,000 protesters led by Christian and Moslem clerics set up road blocks on January 30 in Indonesia's North Sumatra, calling for the closure of rayon and pulp firm, PT Inti Indorayon Utama.

Pulp giant Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd. (APRIL) said in December it planned to sell Indorayon. APRIL is controlled by the Tanoto family, which had powerful political connections during Suharto's 32-year reign. Environmental activists have accused Indorayon of overcutting forests around Lake Toba, prompting a sharp fall in the water level. The company's Porsea operations had to be closed for three months last year because of civil disturbances in the area.

Mounties Frame Farmer...

BY ED PRESS

The tensions between local farmers and ranchers and the powerful corporations exploring and developing vast oil and gas reserves in Alberta, Canada, came to a dramatic conclusion for one oil company official this fall when he was shot dead by an irate rancher.

Most of the local grievances appear to be over the companies flaring of poisonous gases from the thousands of well sites scattered all over the province. Many citizens have registered complaints of contaminated water supplies, identifying deadly poisons such as arsenic in their wells. The energy companies destroy wildlife habitat at an ever increasing rate, and the cries of protest from environmentalists are largely falling on deaf ears.

"The RCMP even bombed an AEC well-site building in order to make its hired informer more credible and frame the accused men."

More than 160 cases of vandalism and sabotage have been committed against company installations and equipment in the last couple of years, causing oil and gas companies concern about long-term security and continuing profits in the province of Alberta. Having little success pinning the crimes elsewhere, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have turned their attention to a farmer near the small town of Hythe in Alberta. Wiebo Ludwig, a former minister of the Christian Reform Church, is well known as a man determined to make oil and gas extractors accountable to the public.

The Ludwigs live as an extended family of 35 people, producing their own electric power, growing much of their own food, raising sheep for wool and generally trying to be as self sufficient as possible. When they first came to the farm in 1985, there was only one gas well in the vicinity. Now there are 10. Gas-flaring-induced health problems have affected the farm animals and family members. In 1997 the family was forced to sell off its sheep because all the lambs were aborted after one particularly bad poisonous gas spill from a nearby well.

Wiebo Ludwig has protested for years to no avail to the Alberta government and to Alberta Energy Company (AEC). In response, AEC has accused Ludwig and his family of numerous acts of vandalism and sabotage against its facilities, each time the charges were dropped for lack of evidence. Recently, though, in a covert operation by the RCMP, Wiebo Ludwig and his friend Richard Boonstra were arrested and charged with numerous counts of conspiracy to commit violence against the property of the AEC.

When the case was brought before the court in Edmonton, Alberta, the whole country was stunned to hear of the major operation undertaken by the RCMP in order to entrap Ludwig and Boonstra. The plot involved, among other things, buying a witness to testify against the two accused. The RCMP even bombed an AEC well-site building in order to make its hired informer more credible and frame the accused men. The RCMP was found guilty of similar offenses in the 1970s.

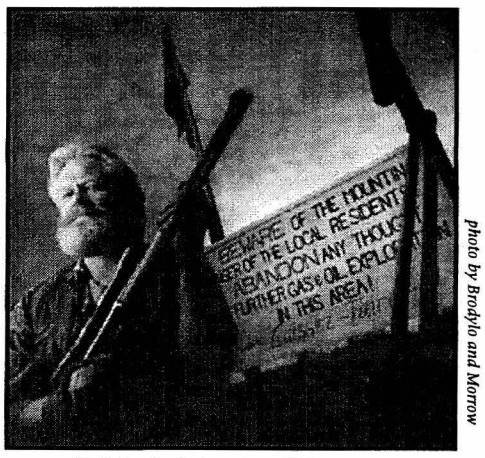


photo by Brodylo and Morrow

"Wiebo Ludwig... is well known as a man determined to make oil and gas extractors accountable to the public."

The men have not been charged with any offense, only conspiring based on evidence brought forth by a paid informant. Boonstra has had no evidence presented against him at all. Yet they were kept in jail and not permitted to post bail until February 19, when they were finally released pending a May 3 trial.

The case appears suspect and unbelievable to most Canadians. Those who do believe in justice in this country continue to do what they can, telling the world what is happening. Others must be made to see how a corrupt police force and government are doing the bidding of wealthy corporations, even denying its own citizens the justice of the courts and the protection of the law.

... and Bulldoze Demo

Alberta's top mountie, accompanied by more than a dozen officers, swooped down on protesters at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police headquarters February 10 and bulldozed their snow fort. The snow fort had multiple chambers capable of sleeping more than a dozen people. It was built a week earlier, after it was learned that the police had bombed a shed at a gas well near Hythe in October to enhance an informer's credibility.

Gerry Paschen, a longtime Edmonton environmentalist, was alone at the fort when Assistant Commander Don McDermid appeared with 14 uniformed officers. McDermid had an eviction order which he read out to Paschen. "I have been patient with respect to your protest actions and have permitted it to continue on our premises into the second week," said McDermid as he read out the notice. "I am not opposed to your right to protest. But I can no longer permit you to remain on the premises." He went on to say that he was worried about damage to the lawn at the new building and worried that the protesters were a distraction and a danger to motorists on Kingsway Avenue.

Officers removed picket signs and other property from the fort, placing it in storage at the police building. Then a small bulldozer moved in on the fort. It was leveled within 15 minutes.

USE A PIE—GO TO JAIL!

CHERRY PIE THREE GET SIX MONTHS

When San Francisco mayor Willie Brown testified against Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB) activists Gerry Livernois, Rahula Janowski and Justin Gross, he repeatedly urged the court to make an example of the defendants. Judge Ernest H. Goldsmith complied and gave all three the maximum penalty of six months in the county jail for pieing his honor.

Food Not Bombs activist and now-convicted pie-thrower, Rahula Janowski, told the court, "Throughout his political career, Willie Brown has maintained his commitment to civil rights for African American people... This makes it all the harder to bear when we see him ignoring and denying the civil rights of homeless people... Where is the compassion, the humanity, in our collective response to this situation?"

Goldsmith justified the harsh sentence by saying, "There is a mortar which holds this democracy together, and that is our system of elections. Americans need not take to the streets, grab weapons or hit someone if they disagree with policy or their side loses an election... The result is stability almost unknown elsewhere in the world, and most of us would like to keep it that way."

Yeah, right. A complete transcript of Judge Goldsmith's incredibly stupid sentencing remarks entitled, *Cream and Punishment: Industrial Society and Its Future, Or Why We Choose Anarchism Over All Forms of Statism,* was recently published by the BBB. Undaunted, Agent Apple defiantly asserted the militant bakers involved in the current pastry uprising will continue to practice literally in-your-face politics, "The pie is cast. We shall not rest until justice, as well as dessert, is served. Together we can lick the upper crust."

Please send vegan, organic pies with files in them to our dear friends Rahula Janowski #1818075, c/o SF County Jail 8, E Pod, 425 7th St., SF, CA 94103 and Justin Gross #1818071, San Bruno County Jail #7, POB 907, San Bruno, CA 94066. Fortunately, Gerry Livernois has not been ordered to jail yet, in light of a serious medical condition. Please send letters of support to him and donations for the BBB payable to Jeff Larson, Friends of the BBB, 3288 21st St., #92, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Activist Targeted:

House Burned in West Virginia's Big Coal Country

By Josh Laughlin

After falling asleep in her lounge chair shortly after midnight on October 8, Rebecca Hunt abruptly woke to glass shattering. Thinking that someone had thrown a rock through her window, she jerked up to investigate. She found a wall of fire eating up her curtains and spreading throughout the rest of the house. She frantically dialed 911, grabbed her three-year-old daughter out of bed and ran to the safety of her neighbor's yard. She stood in the drizzling rain and watched her home burn down.

Here in Logan County, West Virginia, Big Coal runs the show. The state governor was elected with over $500,000 in sooty coal money. The directors of the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection, appointed by Governor Underwood, are former coal industry engineers, consultants, superintendents and managers. The industry contributes $2.6 billion to the state's economy and employs over three percent of the workforce.

Growing up a native West Virginian, Hunt was the daughter of a coal miner. She was once a prospective miner herself. But it didn't take her long to see what Big Coal was doing to her bioregion and community. She says of her childhood, "I can remember when we were tired of climbing mountains we would climb slate dumps... Our creek in Holden was so orange from mine drainage." It wasn't just her creek that had been contaminated. In 1995 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that more than 2,000 stream miles in the state had been polluted by acid mine drainage.

In the latest attempt to get the goods out of the ground, West Virginia's back hills of wild ginseng and roaming black bears have been quickly converted into decapitated mountains and valleys filled with rubble (see *EF!J* September-October 1998). The multiple seams of low-sulfur coal sit beneath a mixed mesophytic forest, which is considered one of the world's most biologically rich temperate-zone hardwood systems.

The wrecking of West Virginia's natural commons and the displacement of its communities has led Hunt to be an outspoken opponent of Arch Coal and others wreaking havoc in the area. (With automation of the industry, Big Coal employs around 4,000 workers in the state compared to 22,000 in 1996 and 130,000 in 1950.) The weekend before her house went up in flames she attended a Citizens Coal Council symposium in Kentucky to organize with other coal watchdog groups. The following night, the night before her house went up, she attended a governor's task force meeting on mountaintop removal, the controversial mining method that does exactly what the name suggests to access deep coal. As a steering committee member of a grassroots community organization, she spoke on behalf of a local family whose house rattled around after 200,000 pounds of explosives were set off next to it.

Coincidences happen, but Hunt thinks the burning of her house was more than just bad luck. During the weekend-long symposium in Kentucky, her estranged husband, who still uses her home to wash his laundry, found the always-locked door to the house slightly ajar. After checking and finding that nothing was missing, he just assumed Rebecca had forgotten to lock up. Hunt's insurance adjuster said he was 95 percent sure the fire was electrical. The house was rewired in 1990.

The creepiness haunting Hunt didn't end with the pile of ashes. Currently shacked up in a local motor lodge with her daughter, she has been subject to intense scrutiny and harassment. On October 24, she spoke out at an EPA hearing in Logan. After returning to the motel around 5 p.m., she found a cigar butt on the coffee table. The maid hadn't seen it when she cleaned earlier that day, and Hunt knows it wasn't there before she left. Her motel room has been broken into several times since. Once, Hunt left a note on the table that read, "Dear thief, you are being video taped—got ya." When she returned, the note was gone.

Hunt feels she has been paying the price for her vocal involvement in the campaign to fight mountaintop removal and Big Coal in West Virginia. Living in fear is nothing she ever wanted, but it is something that has come with her passionate love for wild West Virginia and her fight for social justice. And she isn't planning on letting up. "If God didn't want mountains in the Appalachians, they wouldn't be here. The coal industry may own the property, but on Judgment Day, he will take care... I know I have fought a good fight... We will win; we won't give up."

For more information on mountaintop removal, contact the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition at 1101 6th Ave., Suite 222, Huntington, WV 25701; (304) 522-0246, fax 523-6051. Send support to Rebecca Hunt at POB 337, Holden, WV 25625.

AUTHORITIES SQUELCH TOTAL LIBERATION

BY Sarah Clifton

An anarchist gathering took place in Boca Raton, Florida, the second weekend in February, despite heavy-handed attempts at disruption by the authorities. The Total Liberation Conference attracted participants from all over North America and featured presentations by the American Indian Movement, Ramona Africa of MOVE, the Animal Defense League, Anarchist Black Cross Federation, EarthKind Feminist Collective of Syracuse, Food Not Bombs, The Fund For Animals, *Green Anarchist*, Industrial Workers of the World, Liberation Collective, *No Compromise*, North American Animal Liberation Front Press Office, People Against Racist Terror, Refuse and Resist, and The Refuge.

It was not entirely clear why the authorities stuck their boot-heels on our necks, but it was clear that the human rights of radical activists were once again being infringed upon. The day before the conference, Orlando police contacted Florida Atlantic University where the conference was scheduled to take place and told school officials the conference would be drawing members of known terrorist groups with a probable intent to commit violence while in the area. Predictably, the administration went back on its agreement to let organizers use the campus and space had to be rented in a public park and word spread about the change of venue.

A few hours before the conference was scheduled to open, FBI agents showed up at the home of the primary organizer and confronted him with information that had been intercepted from his email account. The FBI insisted the conference would have to be canceled and said no significant contact should take place between the groups slated to be present. The FBI agents then informed the organizers that a police officer and a park ranger would go to the park with them to inform everyone of the cancellation. As the conference attendees rolled in, they were greeted by about 10 police cars, 30 local officers, a crime scene unit, a tactical unit, a canine unit and several FBI agents.

A van occupied by the Oregon delegation (including Craig Rosebraugh from Portland's Liberation Collective and former Gandalf defendant Saxon Wood) was pulled over first. The passengers were not allowed to move about or have contact with any of the other conference attendees for more than three hours while their van was thoroughly searched without probable cause. Although the authorities repeatedly mentioned that they expected to find weapons and/or drugs, nothing was found. Other carloads of suspected "terrorists" were similarly pulled over and passengers identified and questioned by both local police and the FBI. In one case, a representative of the American Indian Movement was told (in front of his nine-year-old daughter) that he would be shot on site if he did not keep his hands up. We were all told to leave the park, despite the fact that it was public property and we had rented pavilion space. Eventually we were confined to a small knoll away from the road and repeatedly threatened with arrest if we left our spot.

A video camera was used by activists to record the events, and a police liaison was designated to collect badge numbers, names and license plate numbers. By doing this we were able to document the ridiculous number and variety of cops and their harassment tactics. A copy of the video footage of the incident was then released to the press, who agreed that the film "bolstered our allegations of harassment." A few discreet sympathizers were able to arrange a meeting space, and the conference raged on, escaping the watchful eyes and ears of the FBI and their police puppets.

It turned out to be an amazing event! We held a press conference at the Boca Raton police station on the final morning of the conference where media filmed the activists filing complaints and requesting a police report. The press then followed us to a Boca Raton Bloomingdales, where a loud and ill-received anti-fur protest was held. The events of that weekend opened the eyes of all involved, leaving us more convinced than ever of our civil duty to act against the state.

Clausen Strikes Out

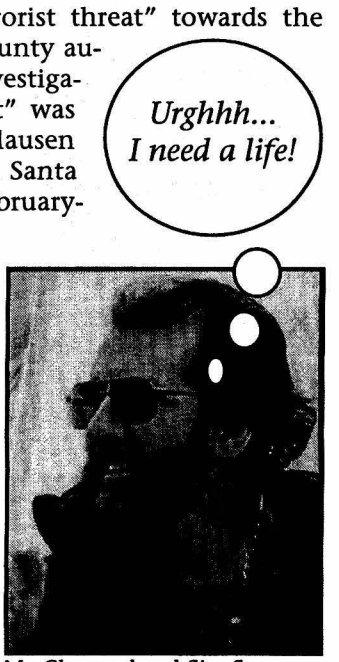
BY Kevin Bundy, EPIC

On January 28, Barry Clausen, long-time wise use frontman, dangerous liar and FBI informant, walked into the office of the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in Garberville, California, demanding to see our tax records.

Those who belong to 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit organizations may want to review your rights and responsibilities under the tax laws with respect to disclosing such information. Apparently, organizations can petition the Secretary of the Treasury for an exemption to the requirement if the request is "part of a harassment campaign and not in the public interest."

Clausen runs an organization known as North American Research and recently moved to Eureka, California (whoopee). Last year he testified at the high-profile congressional hearings on "eco-terrorism," he fabricated a link between EF! and the Unabomber a couple of years ago and is partners with wise use mastermind Ron Arnold, whose stated goal is to destroy the environmental movement.

Most recently, after being caught in the act of agitating California vineyard owners, wannabe-secret-agent-man Clausen was the subject of a rather unflattering profile published in the *Wall Street Journal* on March 2. Clausen had accused EF! of issuing a "terrorist threat" towards the vintners, but Santa Barbara County authorities began focusing the investigation on him once the "threat" was revealed to be a single line Clausen had taken out of context from Santa Barbara EF!'s blank wall (*EF!J* February-March 1999).



For more information on Clausen and related threats to all our work and safety, contact the Clearinghouse on Environmental Advocacy and Research, www.ewg.org/pub/home/clear.html.

Be on the watch for a 5'9" or so, heavyset, mildly balding guy with glasses, medium-length gray/brown hair and a short beard, who will be carrying a letter citing all kinds of IRS codes and asking to see your papers.

Mr. Clausen, bored flim-flam man

Luxury Apartments vs Wild Den Rock

Massachusetts Developer Threatens Merrimack Valley Wildlife

BY TENNIS LILLY, DEN ROCK COALITION

Although we have become accustomed to large-scale battles over magnificent natural wonders like the Headwaters forest, one of the frontline environmental struggles in the coming century will be in the parks and undeveloped lots of our cities and suburbs.

In the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts, cities and towns are struggling to come to terms with rampant growth. Pressure from developers to rezone "unbuildable" lots and allow development of open space is increasing.

In the city of Lawrence (the most densely populated city in Massachusetts), 96 percent of the land has been developed. Most of its citizens live at or below the poverty level. The city's once bustling downtown is a half deserted street lined with boarded buildings and empty lots. While the inner city decays and entire streets are deserted and burnt out, the most aggressively pursued development project would not produce a single job, would not generate any economic activity for the city and would occupy the final undeveloped, privately owned piece of land in Lawrence.

The "Jefferson at Den Rock" would be a 240-unit luxury apartment complex on over nine acres of what is now forest and wetlands. This land abuts Den Rock Park, the only non-urban habitat in Lawrence. The park is 81.5 acres of urban wilderness, accounting for over 50 percent of Lawrence's open space. Adding up the undeveloped land around the park, the entire Den Rock habitat encompasses nearly 200 acres of mature and transitional forest sporting both conifers and hardwoods, wetlands, meadows, scrub, vernal pools and the Shawsheen River, as well as another perennial and four seasonal streams. It is also home to coyotes, fox, mink, deer, beaver, hawks and over 20 species of birds, some not found anywhere else in the city. There are over four

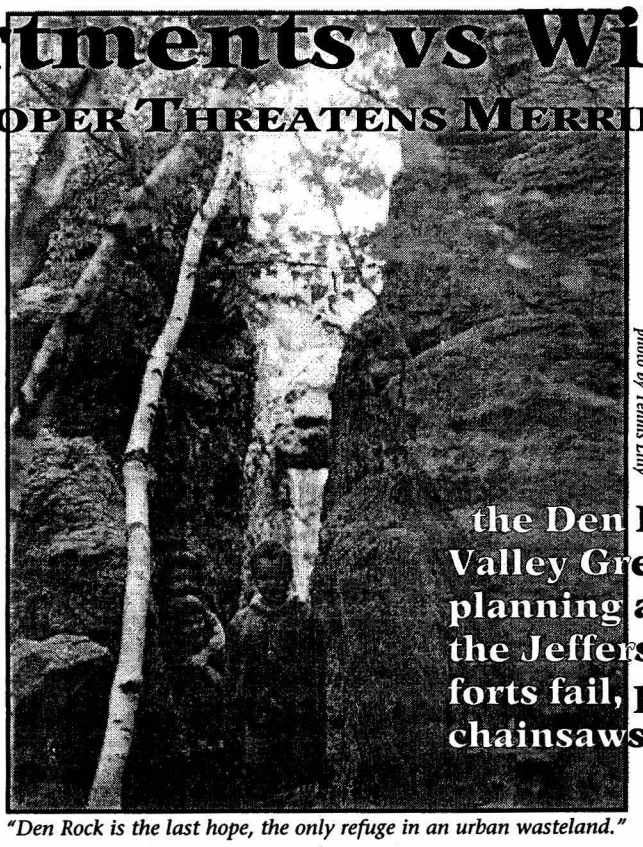


photo by Tennis Lilly

"Den Rock is the last hope, the only refuge in an urban wasteland."

the Den Rock Coalition, the Merrimack Valley Greens and Mass Earth First! are planning a direct action campaign against the Jefferson at Den Rock. Should all efforts fail, protesters will be waiting for the chainsaws and bulldozers.

miles of hiking trails, most laid by the Works Project Administration in the '30s, and the most spectacular granite formation in the Merrimack Valley. The Den Rock with its crevasses and cliff attracts climbers from the Boston area and New Hampshire.

The park is the most diverse and rich habitat in the Merrimack Valley. It also is at the heart of the busiest area in a region exploding with development. Lawrence has the highest rate of respiratory illness and lead poisoning in the state, with dioxin contamination, brownfields and the highly contaminated Spicket River. Den Rock is the last hope, the only refuge in an urban wasteland.

Efforts to thwart the Jefferson reached a climax in the last 18 months with the Den Rock Coalition tying the developer, JPI's, state wetland permit up in appeal. The permit was issued after some minor changes to the design, and talks aimed at convincing JPI to sell the property to the city of Lawrence for conservation purposes began. JPI set it's price: $15 million. An appeal went out to Senator John Kerry, Representative Marty Meehan and several members of the state legislature for funds to acquire the Jefferson. But our hopes were dashed after JPI stated rather coldly that it did not believe that securing funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund would be "a top priority" and that the $15 million was not negotiable. JPI moved forward, clearing the site of trees and brush, and violating state permits. The coalition has since filed suit.

If JPI does eventually build, it will be after four years, nearly three and a half million dollars and many arrests. Keeping a pledge made years ago when the fight to protect Den Rock first started, members of the Den Rock Coalition, the Merrimack Valley Greens and Mass Earth First! are planning a direct action campaign against the Jefferson at Den Rock. Should all efforts fail, protesters will be waiting for the chainsaws and bulldozers.

For more info contact Tennis Lilly, Den Rock Coalition, 40 Spruce Street, Lawrence, MA 01841; (978) 688-3569; Tennis.Lilly@leasecomm.com.

Park Service to Cut In Grand Canyon

BY ROXANE GEORGE

Grand Canyon National Park is a place of awe-inspiring beauty and undeniable uniqueness. While this crown jewel of the national park system suffers ever-increasing impacts from tourism and development, its status protects it from mechanized industrial operations like logging, *or it should.*

But there's this story going around:

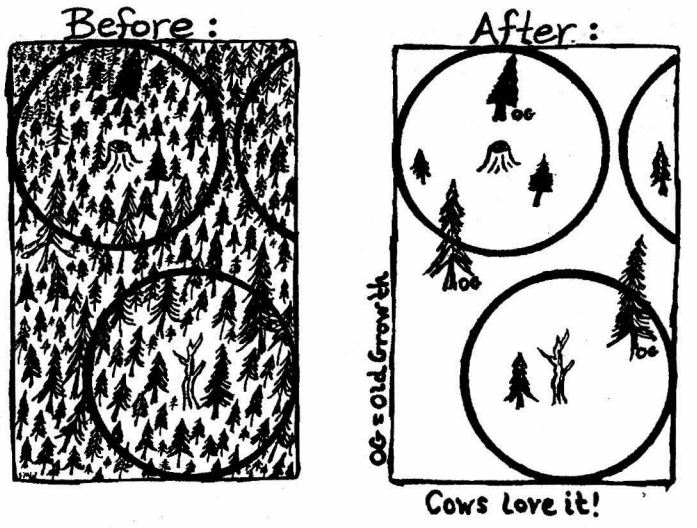
Once upon a time, before European-Americans came, Southwest forests were real different, with open grassy areas and lots of big old trees in widely spaced clumps. Frequent fires maintained the grasses and understory vegetation while keeping too many trees from growing. These fires were always gentle and hardly ever killed any old-growth trees or caused any trouble. Then cows ate the grasses, logging killed the old growth and Euro-humans put out the friendly fires. Now the forests are in trouble; there are way too many trees, and the fires are never gentle anymore. Luckily the folks making decisions about land management nowadays are much more responsible and enlightened and they know just how to fix it.

It's not a bad story; some of it is even true. Certainly, forest conditions have been altered by grazing, logging and fire suppression. However, just like stories about insects, disease, dwarf mistletoe, and dead and dying trees *just left to rot*, this story contains oversimplifications that are easily exploited by policy makers and land managers to justify scientifically unsupportable logging activities.

In Arizona, forestry professor Wally Covington and the Grand Canyon Forest Partnership are using a single controversial model of "presettlement conditions" and the threat of "catastrophic fire" to justify drastic logging prescriptions. Covington favors the use of "full restoration treatments" to create "pre-settlement conditions" in ponderosa pine forests. These treatments are worrisome.

First, full restoration assumes that Covington's pre-settlement model is correct. The treatment goal is to return Southwestern forests to theorized "snapshot in time" conditions almost overnight. This model ignores the fact that huge old-growth ponderosas, a major component of pre-settlement forests, are now mostly absent. It also fails to adequately account for smaller pre-settlement trees. The full restoration treatment represents the radical extreme, moving far beyond thinning dense stands of dog-hair thickets or prescribed burning, and will result in the removal of 80-90 percent of the trees now standing.

Some have called this "catastrophic restoration," with good reason, especially since there is no substantial evidence that these treatments can restore ecosystem integrity. Restoration logging is an embryonic science. The eldest similar experiment conducted by Covington in the region has had only one growing season since its completion. In addition to a lack of supporting evidence and important questions about methodology, this sudden intense interest in restoration appears suspect in light of a lack of earnest proposals to eliminate livestock grazing, logging and fire suppression activities from public lands.



Forest advocates were alarmed over similar restoration proposals for 100,000 acres in Arizona's Coconino National Forest. Alarm escalated seriously when a draft environmental assessment (DEA) was issued in January for similar experiments on two 80-acre blocks on the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon. Full restoration and other treatments are proposed for areas within the Grand Canyon National Park boundaries and in areas that the Park Service has recommended for wilderness designation.

The Park Service's statements about the project are rife with contradictions. The DEA states that the park has not experienced any recent grazing, logging or intense fire suppression. Therefore, the research being conducted elsewhere is not applicable. However, the Park Service plans to use the same approach. Park officials admit that experimenting on 160 acres will not reduce fire potential and claim to have no plans to implement these treatments on a larger scale. Yet they avow a responsibility to do the research inside the park, ignoring the appalling precedent this action sets.

Although conclusive results will not be available for at least 10 years, they expect to develop a park forest management plan based on these experiments within three to five years. No road upgrades are "anticipated," yet 10 to 15 trips by log trucks will be required on a road that barely allows a sports utility vehicle to turn around. Previously, prescribed burning in park forests without prior thinning has resulted in one percent old-growth mortality; Covington's experiments have produced up to 30 percent or higher old-growth mortality. Suggestions that experimenting in the Kaibab National Forest bordering the park would be more appropriate have been brushed aside.Apparently, the Park Service does not agree that national park status and wilderness eligibility should protect Grand Canyon National Park from logging; they need reminding. Public comments on the DEA are due March 25, 1999.

Comments can be sent to Grand Canyon National Park, Attention: Wildlife Biologist, POB 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. For more information, contact the Flagstaff Activist Network at 2115 E. Maple #17, Flagstaff, AZ 86004; (520) 774-6542; reg3@dana.ucc.nau.edu.

Midwest Wallops Home Depot

2 Grand Openings, 2 Banners, 3 Lockdowns, 12 Arrests and Many Pairs of Blunted Bolt Cutters in 7 Days!

BY SPINEY

Activists from Big Woods and Midwest Headwaters EF! teamed up this month to hit two new Home Depot stores on their opening days in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Janesville, Wisconsin. Daring EF!ers hung banners, locked down to lumber, led incriminating store tours, staged giant puppet plays, and distributed hundreds of flyers and postcards to shoppers, contractors and Home Depot employees before being arrested or escorted off the property.

Home Depot, currently the world's largest home improvement retailer, is also the largest retailer of old-growth and rainforest products, single-handedly controlling 30 percent of the home improvement market. With over 700 stores now open and an additional 600 planned before 2001, Home Depot's empire reaches across the US and Canada into Chile and Brazil. The company also claims to be environmentally friendly, loudly talking up its support for America Recycles Day and other highly public green causes. Unfortunately, when it comes to its own products, the talk is just that—talk. Since 1992, Home Depot has promised at least three times to "phase out products that cannot be proven to be forested on a sustainable basis." Seven years later, anyone with any knowledge of lumber can find old-growth Western red cedar shingles, redwood decking, endangered Northern white pine, ramin tool handles and dowels, luaun paneling from tropical rainforest trees and other easily identifiable old-growth and rainforest products in its stores.

The Rainforest Action Network has been organizing an international campaign to hold Home Depot accountable for its products. A wide variety of supporters, from EF! to Working Assets credit cards to pop stars REM have joined in, and the campaign's first international day of action on October 14 saw demonstrations at 75 outlets (see *EF! J*, December, 98). As Home Depot has shown no signs since then of abiding by its original promises, we figured it was still open season on grand openings.

Shoppers arriving at the St. Cloud Home Depot just after ten o'clock on February 4 were probably not surprised to see a seven-and-a-half-foot Homer the Home Depot mascot standing on the sidewalk talking to a construction worker, though his lecture on environmental responsibility must have seemed odd. Within minutes the jig was up, and activists from the Minnehaha Free State flooded the front sidewalk, handing out flyers and talking to people about the store's dismal record. When employees came out to watch, a commotion broke out inside. Activists volunteered their services to customers as in-store tour guides, leading contractors and the public from section to section, pointing out which products contained illegally harvested or rainforest materials. These tours continued even as the guides were forced out the door.

Meanwhile, as police were finally rounding up the last of the puppeteers

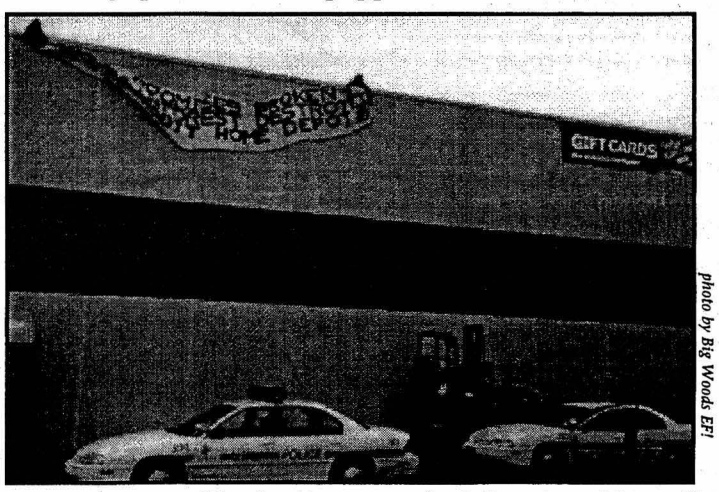


photo by Big Woods EF!

"Hey, how'd you get up there? Come down right now!"

in the parking lot, yet another affinity group appeared on the store's roof. To the disbelief and consternation of the general manager, they unrolled a message from Rainforest Action Network: "Home Depot—Stop Selling Old Growth Wood," and chanted, "Hey hey! Ho ho! Fuck the Home Depot!" until they too were arrested. Finally, as a capstone to the whole chaotic morning, one Free Stater climbed up a lumber rack and locked himself by the neck to the cross-bracing, refusing to leave until Home Depot agreed to abide by its own promises. Despite the large selection of tools available, police and staffers were unable to break the lock and ended up cutting their own shelving in order to take him to jail.

On February 11, a new Home Depot opened in Janesville, Wisconsin. Homer couldn't make it, but 16 EF! and animal rights activists did. This time the action was initiated by a picket line of sign-carrying and flyer-distributing students on the sidewalk outside. Inside the store, two women with motorcycle locks climbed up on the lumber racks and locked down. We were all amused when two DeWalt Tools sales representatives, on hand for the grand opening, asked police who were trying to cut out the lockdowns if they could use this opportunity to demo their new cordless sawzall.

After the first round of bolt-cutters completely failed, police took a break to deal with two more women who had appeared on the roof with a banner more than four times the size of the one in St. Cloud, this one reading "Promises Broken—Rainforest Destroyed—Boycott Home Depot." Although polite and careful, the police seemed a little confused. A hook-and-ladder truck had already arrived by the time a clear-thinking employee pointed out that the staircase might be a better way to access the roof. One officer accidentally injured his hand attempting to cut a cobra lock with a borrowed jackknife and another was heard speculating that the banner team might have deployed from a helicopter.

All in all, eight EF!ers—the action team, three support people and the media coordinator—were arrested and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. The banner remained visible for 25 minutes, and the picket line continued for several hours. Although only a few media sources were on hand during the direct action, the Associated Press picked up the story, distributing it nationwide.

Since the Rainforest Action Network initiated the latest round of actions against Home Depot, over 87 stores have been targeted. Another national day of action demanding Home Depot to "go green" will take place this St. Patrick's Day, March 17. For more information contact RAN, 221 Pine St., SF, CA 94104; 1-800-989-RAIN; www.ran.org. More information on the Home Depot campaign is available at www.homedepotsucks.com. Contact Home Depot's national headquarters at 2455 Paces Ferry Rd., Atlanta, GA 30339; 1-800-553-3199.

Activism is fun and unpaid, demands dedication, practice and skill, builds character and inspires people. Like amateur competitive sports, there is much to be gained when activists come together to demonstrate to each other and to the world the abilities they have nurtured in themselves and in others. This can also be a time to collectively kick ass. In light of these facts, we declare the Home Depot NOlympics! We expect groups to take part in this good-natured competition from St. Patrick's Day until the Round River Rendezvous (RRR) by staging nonviolent direct actions against Home Depot's broken promises and abysmal environmental record in general. Adopt-a-Depot in your home town! Based on photo, video and written documentation we will award suitably goofy prizes (y'all ain't mercenaries, you know that) at the RRR. Good luck! If you can't make the RRR, mail your evidence to HD NOlympics! c/o Big Woods EF!, POB 580936; Mpls, MN 55458-0936; (612) 362-3387; earthfirst@juno.com. Sorry, we can't provide legal support, and yes, we are soliciting prize donations.

Big Mountain Eviction Update

BY GOAT BOY

In the high desert of northeastern Arizona, the Dineh struggle against forced relocation has endured a very hard 24th year. 1998 saw the ownership of Peabody Coal Company transferred to Lehman Brothers Merchant Banking in St. Louis. The United Nations Working Group of Indigenous Human Rights made two trips to the area to investigate abuses by the US government. As the traditional Dineh (or Navajo) enter what may be the final year of their long struggle against the genocidal policies of the US government, the few remaining families are struggling desperately to hold on.

In November 1998, 13 individuals were served papers that began the final process of evicting them from their traditional lands. These people are the only remaining residents of the Hopi Partition Land who did not sign and are not covered by the 75-year lease agreement that was forced on all the resisting families in 1997. The lease gives families three-acre plots with no burial rights and no ability to pass the land onto future generations. It also requires extensive permits for day-to-day activities such as gathering firewood and cutting boughs for ceremony. The lease offers no protection against mining in the area of the home sites. It appears that plans to greatly expand mining on Black Mesa are underway.

There are only five home sites left that have not agreed to this lease. The notices delivered in November gave people 30 days to sign the lease or to relocate. No one chose to do so. They are now awaiting 90-day notices announcing the final stage of the US government's ethnic cleansing in Arizona. After the 90 days pass, the US Department of Justice, the Hopi Tribal Council, the state of Arizona and the US Department of Interior will seek orders allowing the physical relocation of the resistors to the radioactively contaminated "New Lands." But the five remaining families *will not leave*. They *will not give in* to the government's unjust laws. They are urging the outside world to put the pressure on to halt this process and leave them alone to practice the way of life given them by their Creator.

The final deadline for relocation is February 1, 2000. US Marshals will be attempting to forcibly remove resistors by that date. The 1st Amendment lawsuit, *Manybeads vs. The United States Government*, which has been pending for more than a decade, will finally be heard in October of this year. The Dineh resistors are requesting travel funds to testify in San Francisco, California. This spring and summer the residents face livestock impoundments. Many families have already greatly reduced the size of their herds for fear of losing their livestock without compensation.

photo by Fred Watters

The resistors have asked supporters to be prepared with video equipment to document the violations of their human rights. Support groups around the world continue to lobby politicians and bring major media attention to the struggle. For information on the land support efforts, please contact Black Mesa Indigenous Support, POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; (520) 773-8086. To support the resistors' organization *Diyin Bik'engo Oodlanigii* in its legal battle, please contact Media Island International, POB 7204, Olympia, WA 98507; (360) 352-8526; Mii@olywa.net.

Alliance Stymies Wisconsin Mining

Resource extraction corporations have become adept at confronting stereotypical versions of environmental groups made up largely of white, urban, upper/middle class young people who protest harmful projects that are backed by rural communities for the jobs. The companies and their wise use front groups are usually able to portray such groups as comfortable hippies and yuppies who don't care about rural people. But what the mining companies had to face in northern Wisconsin was an environmental movement that was interracial, rural-based, middle-class, working-class and inter-generational, one that did not just address the environmental aspects of mining, but the economic and cultural impacts as well.

The Wisconsin movement against metallic sulfide mining began in 1975 when Exxon discovered the large Crandon zinc-copper sulfide deposit in Forest County, one mile upstream from the Mole Lake Chippewa Reservation and five miles downwind from the Potawatomi Reservation. Sulfide mining has a notorious history of leaching heavy metals and threatening groundwater, and a local movement slowly grew against the mine proposal.

The Midwest Treaty Network (MTN) was founded in 1989 as an alliance of Indian and non-Indian groups who wanted to support Native American sovereignty and build bridges between Native nations and grassroots environmental groups. In 1996, MTN's Wolf Watershed Educational Project (WWEP) sponsored a speaking tour that went up the Wolf and Wisconsin rivers, where Exxon was then proposing to dump its liquid mine wastes. This tour reached 22 communities and 1,100 people, and culminated with a rally of 1,000 in Rhinelander. Many local citizens heard from Native Americans for the first time in their lives. A 1997 tour covered other parts of the state and increased support for a mining moratorium bill that eventually passed.

How did such a small grassroots movement using old-fashioned education and organizing manage to slow down the corporate Goliath? Part of the answer lies in Wisconsin's history of environmental ethics. As the home of John Muir, Aldo Leopold and the Menominee Chief Oshkosh, the state has a long tradition of populist and progressive politics, with a healthy dose of mistrust of corporations and their collaborators in state government thrown in. And part of the answer lies in the determination of Wisconsin Native American nations to safeguard their off-reservation treaty rights and on-reservation sovereign rights. As a result, the companies found they could not successfully use the same divide-and-conquer tactics that had worked so well elsewhere in the country.

First the companies tried to split northerners by race. Some of the mining companies may have felt that, because of treaty rights conflicts, white sportfishing groups would not join hands with the Chippewa or Menominee. Yet the groups slowly realized that if sulfide mines were allowed to open, there might not be fish in some waterways to argue about. Governor Thompson also threatened to close the casinos if the tribes did not back off their environmental regulations. Not only did these tactics not work, but many non-Indian communities dependent on the casinos backed the tribes, and Nashville township voters next to the Crandon site elected a Mole Lake Chippewa to their board.

Next, the companies tried to split rural and urban communities by portraying anti-mining forces in their ads as "well-funded" and from the big city—Madison. Yet the mining moratorium concept had emerged from rural groups, and rural legislators quickly learned that their constituents strongly supported it. Hundreds of signs sprouted up on northern roads, and the theme of regional pride was claimed by anti-mining groups before the wise use groups could get their hands on it. Several town boards were voted out after they made deals with mining companies.

The companies also tried to split people by class. In one of its TV ads, Exxon presented a local Milwaukee steelworkers union president who backed mining. Many Wisconsin plants manufacture mining equipment, but Rio Algom's uranium mines in Ontario had killed dozens of steelworkers in the '70s, leading Wisconsin union members to form the Committee of Labor Against Sulfide Pollution , which exposed the companies' health and safety track records. Over a dozen union locals and labor councils (many of whose members enjoy fishing in the north) passed resolutions supporting the mining moratorium.

The companies' public relations experts were very experienced, but their tactics simply did not work against such a broad-based, grassroots movement. Try as they might, the corporations and their supporters could not divide the people of Wisconsin by race, by region or by class.

Now, international mining journals express worry about the contagious spread of anti-mining sentiment from Wisconsin through the Internet and place Wisconsin together with Canada, Australia and Papua New Guinea as the main global battlegrounds for the industry's future. As the industry journal *North American Mining* bemoaned in August '98, "The increasingly sophisticated political maneuvering by environmental special interest groups has made permitting a mine in Wisconsin an impossibility."

Many different Wisconsin groups, in addition to the WWEP, work in legal, technical, political and spiritual areas not only to stop the Crandon mine, but a larger metallic sulfide mining district. The companies are not only worried about the spread of mining moratoriums to other states and countries, but the spread of the concept of a different kind of environmental movement—one that is not as easily divided and conquered. The Wisconsin anti-mining movement can provide a model not only to environmental alliances, but to grassroots education and organizing campaigns that operate without large staffs and funding proposals—imagination and community support can outfox the world's largest multinational corporations.

For information contact the Wolf Watershed Educational Project, c/o Midwest Treaty Network, 731 State St. Madison, WI 53703; (800) 445-8615, (608) 246-2256; mtn@igc.apc.org; www.alphacdc.com/treaty/content.html. See the books *New Resource Wars* by Al Gedicks, and *Walleye Warriors* by Walt Bresette and Rick Whaley.

—Midwest Treaty Network

Partnership for Healthy Ecosystems

MacMillan Bloedel and Greenpeace Shake Hands

BY JOSH LAUGHLIN

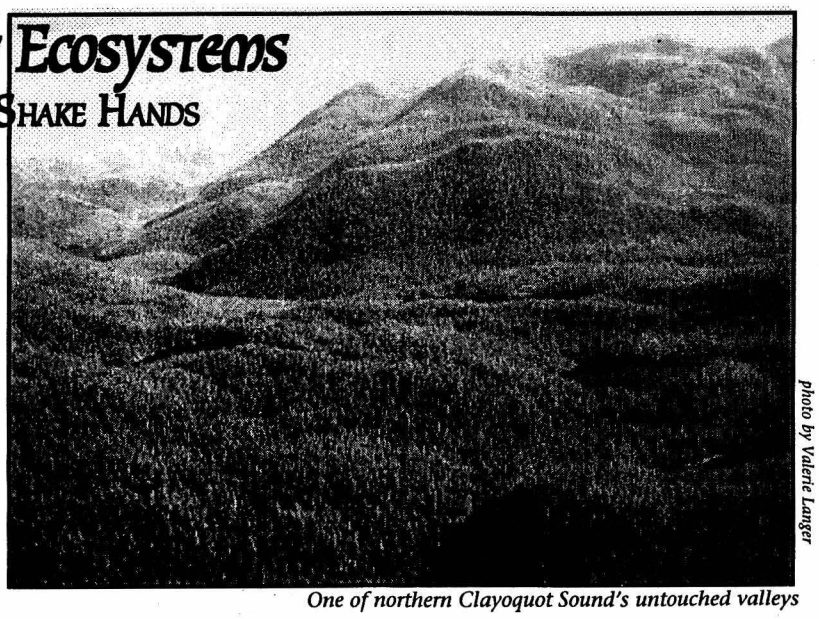


photo by Valerie Langer

One of northern Clayoquot Sound's untouched valleys

For ancient forests activists, Clayoquot Sound rings loud bells. Mass protests throughout the '80s and '90s in this large tract of temperate rainforest resulted in burned bridges, spiked trees and reclaimed roads. In response to the need for long-term forest planning and the rampant trashing of this coastal ecosystem by timber giants MacMillan Bloedel (MacBlo) and International Forest Products, Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FoCS) formed in 1979. Soon enough, most wings of the environmental movement were behind the defense of Clayoquot Sound, located on the west coast of Canada's Vancouver Island. From the Sierra Club to Earth First! and from Greenpeace to the Forest Action Network, a mass mobilization to halt the chainsaws ensued. After a highly publicized civil disobedience campaign and the hundreds of ensuing arrests during Clayoquot Summer in '93, attention shied away from the threatened rainforest.

Just recently, Greenpeace Canada has been in the Clayoquot Sound spotlight again. The group has agreed to support "sustainable" logging in Clayoquot by MacBlo, whose largest stockholder is the government of British Columbia. Greenpeace claims it has reached a happy medium with local First Nations and the timber-hungry firm and that it has taken environmental and social considerations into account. Iisaak Forest Industry, a joint partnership between MacBlo and the Nuu-chah-nulth, has been established to log in the sound. The Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation is made up of 13 tribes indigenous to the area.

MacBlo has stipulated to certain terms required by Greenpeace under a memorandum of understanding. According to Tamara Stark of Vancouver-based Greenpeace Canada, MacBlo has agreed to focus on creating "value added products," by cutting down on its raw log exports while providing more processing jobs at home. Another major understanding is that no logging will take place in the intact valleys of Clayoquot Sound. Sergio Paone of FoCS says that of the 170 watersheds greater than 10,000 acres on Vancouver Island, only 11 have never been scarred by roads and clearcuts. Of the 11, six are in Clayoquot Sound. Only two of the six are protected under Canadian law. The deal says the company will stay out of the four unprotected, untouched watersheds. It doesn't say ancient forests won't be cut, but the company has agreed to "phase out" old-growth logging.

The environmental community of British Columbia is torn over the agreement. The Sierra Club and the National Resource Defense Council have signed on. The Forest Action Network and Friends of Clayoquot Sound haven't. FoCS' stand allows no old-growth cutting. "It's too late and there is too little left to argue about logging old growth," Paone says. The group has not taken a side on the issue but has agreed to wait and watch.

Nearly 15 years ago, 23,000 spikes were allegedly pounded into thick old-growth spruce and fir on Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound; in 1991 and 1993 bridges leading into untouched swaths of temperate forest were torched; hundreds of civil disobedience arrests followed throughout the early '90s. Today Greenpeace Canada is working to help MacBlo sell Clayoquot Sound old growth. "We will aid with the marketing," said Catherine Stewart, Greenpeace forest campaigner in a recent *Vancouver Sun* article. "We will use our offices around the world and our publications to get the word out." Times are a changin' in Clayoquot Sound, and lots of ancient forest activists' eyes will be following this one closely.

Alabama—Ecological Resistance, Not Oligarchy

BY TREE FROG HOOLIGHAN

According to the Nature Conservancy's conservative analysis, "Almost 50 percent of all documented US extinctions since European settlement have occurred during this century in the Mobile River Basin. Alabama, through which this vast river system courses, has the unfortunate distinction of being the most extinction-prone state in the continental United States." The US Fish and Wildlife Service, not one to leap to biocentric conclusions, said that Alabama is experiencing the greatest mass extinction of species since the last Ice Age (in North America).

Too add insult to injury, captains of industry gravitate towards the area for its cheap labor, cheap land, lax governmental regulation and high growth potential. After decades of backwards thinking, incestuous political mutations and arguably the nation's wimpiest environmental groups, Alabama's profoundly rich and varied biological diversity is simply going under. Take a quick look at the US EF! directory. See a listing for Alabama?

Old time reform-conservation principles rule in the Land of Cotton. Since the late 1960s, Alabama environmentalists have tended to be older, white, middle class, well-meaning do-gooders with a penchant for the cute and cuddly aspects of Mother Nature. Big on recycling; nowhere to be seen in defense of biodiversity. Maybe it's hard to get up and rant about snails and mussels on Earth Day (which is held in local malls on occasion, just in case of rain). Maybe it's hard to look those funders in the eye while begging for another corporate dollar. After all, corporate funders tend to eschew those groups that bite the hand that feeds, and that's what it has come down to here in the Heart of Dixie: Defend the wild on your own dime because corporate cash rules. In the end, the wild burns while the weenies fiddle.

Meanwhile, Alabama continues to set the pace for the rest of America—total disregard for anything beyond the neo-anthropocentric gods of growth and progress. Every issue of national ecological significance is magnified in Alabama. You name it—environmental justice, urban sprawl, chip mills, dams, species extinctions, dioxin, clear cutting, National Forest road building, "private property rights" claims, bulldozing of wetlands, coastal zone destruction, lack of wilderness—it's all here in exponential proportions.

Just don't expect to see much in the way of an ecological resistance movement when you get here. Urban hiking we got; biocentric defenders of the wild we don't. Not that pockets of resistance haven't popped up. To the contrary, a few lone wolves have made valiant efforts, all the while hoping for much needed assistance from anybody, anywhere. But in the long run, isolated pockets of eco-defense aren't going to make it. Without a giant infusion of support, a handful of Earth cops will inevitably be left defending mere memories of what William Bartram described as one of the world's most magnificent landscapes.

Alabama needs immunization from an insidious infection by the corporate-industrial oligarchy. But it won't come from the reformers. They've had three decades at the wheel; a new paradigm is now required. Currently, most fights being waged in Alabama involve mega-mall invasions, Wal-Marts, factory hog farms: stuff that tends to lower property values. It's neighborhood against neighborhood as growth and progress sweeps across the kudzu infested terrain. Go to any public eco-forum and you'll see moms and pops rising in protest against some heinous development that's zeroed in on their community. But cities need revenue. Wal-Mart pays. Run it out of here, it simply pops up over there.

Mom and pop haven't swallowed their truth pill yet. While they'll fight to run a putrid mall out of the neighborhood, their motives rarely involve deeper ecological issues. It's a rare day when neighbors unite in defense of anything wild in Alabama. Not unless their accountant thinks it's a good idea.

So what we need is a dose of good old-fashioned Earth First! The reform compromising of the past has directly contributed to the demise of America's ecosystems. That's a hard fact to gulp, yet it seems doubly true as we blast towards the new millennium. The blame for our current plight must include the failure of mainstream groups to take aggressive stands against every single inappropriate development. Period. When you've compromised away the bulk of the wild, you can't honorably continue compromising. What's at stake in Alabama is nothing less than a biological meltdown. Symbols come cheap these days. But it seems reasonable to say that Alabama stands as the nation's most symbolic example of the death of the wild. Not that victory is a remote probability; but if we can win in Alabama, we can win anywhere!

No greater opportunity for fast-track ecodefense training can be found than right here in the jungles of Alabama. Okay, maybe you've read Gary Snyder and have that reinhabitation ethic. Fine, don't leave your eco-chants for good, just get down here and organize a few strong biocentric cells of earth defenders. You won't find legions of comrades. Tofu is not a household word. Smog spewing pick-up trucks rule the road. Football is the state religion. Don't be surprised to see the judge hearing your civil disobedience case scowling at you from beneath his placard of the Ten Commandments. It will be a lonely battle, fought in desperation, against overwhelming odds.

But in the end, you will remember Edward Abbey's lovely remark to Earth warriors everywhere, "We in America are being systematically robbed. Robbed of the most elementary decencies of life—clean air, sunlight, pure unmedicated water, grass and woods to play in, silence, solitude and space, even time, even death. Instead...?"

For more information, consult any road atlas and drive south. Don't expect to be greeted at the border by a welcoming committee of mainstream environmental groups. They'll be too busy fundraising to bother.

Tree Frog Hoolighan is a native Alabamian and spends most days drinking beer or fighting the corporate take-over of his state.

Vancouver Island's Catface Mountain

Arrest-Free Vigil Stops Logging

BY MARYJKA MYCHAJLOWYC

On October 28, as darkness fell, protesters watched Interfor's road building machines retreat down Catface Mountain to be barged out of Vancouver Island's Clayoquot Sound in southwestern Canada. Interfor is the government sponsored logging company. Grinning from ear to ear with disbelief, three of us closed out the month-long blockade.

The protest began on September 21 when Interfor resumed building two roads into the headwaters of the Pineetl Valley. At issue was the company's Catface logging plan, which does not remotely live up to the "world-class, ecosystem-first" forestry intended by the Clayoquot Sound scientific panel.

The blockade was triggered by the proposed incursion of Road C1000 into the "no cutting" buffer specified for Pineetl Creek by the scientific panel. Despite more than a year of input by Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FoCS), the proposed road remained within the stream buffer, a symbol of the disregard for ecosystem integrity displayed by the Catface plan and the overall failure to implement the scientific panel's recommendations in Clayoquot Sound.

The first week of the protest consisted of day trips to demonstrate opposition without trying to stop road construction. Accessing the site required a half-hour boat ride from Tofino, then a six-kilometre hike along a logging road, the last stretch a steep climb rising 400 metres. We called the trek our "Catface spa workout," guaranteed to increase fitness.

When two trucks arrived on the morning of September 30, we were standing across the road. After they ascertained that we were not moving the workers left. Interfor informed us that its injunction application to force us to move was ready to be filed in court so we were pleasantly surprised when days passed and nothing happened—no workers, no court injunction, no police. As it turned out, Interfor never filed an injunction, and the blockade became an arrest-free vigil.

photo courtesy of Friends of Clayquot Sound

Hanging out with a tire on a rainy afternoon

A large abandoned tire became the nucleus of a rock barricade across the road. Our home-away-from-home was under a tarp erected beside the barrier, where we established our kitchen and living room around a smoky fire. Tree climbers hung an "Interfor Betrays Clayoquot" banner high above the road.

Several dozen protectors came to Catface: teenagers and grandmothers, locals, out-of-towners and foreigners. All were amazed and indignant that the planning of patch clearcuts and steep roads in a remnant pocket of old growth was being passed off as "the best forestry in the world."

To our regret, the Hereditary Chiefs and the Band Council of the Ahousaht First Nation, whose territory includes Catface, opposed the protest. They issued two statements that the Ahousaht and all government agencies had approved the Catface logging and demanded that the protest cease. We replied that, while we respect First Nations' jurisdiction over their lands, we have the right to oppose their decisions, just as we have the right to oppose any government's decisions. A delegation also drove up to the barricade and demanded that we dismantle it, which we declined to do. A meeting with the chiefs to discuss our differing perspectives is still pending.

The reasons for Interfor's no-show and eventual pullout are unclear. Rumour has it that the company wants to leave the sound altogether. It has been losing money overall, especially in Clayoquot. Interfor's workers said it could not afford injunction costs, did not want media coverage of the event and that they had lost the good weather window for road building because of the blockade.

Winter rains have taken over where the blockade left off, preventing Interfor from resuming work until spring, if indeed they do. The ancient forest in the heart of the Catface Range still stands. Let's keep it that way!

For more information, contact Friends of Clayoquot Sound, POB 489, Tofino, BC, VOR 2Z0, Canada; (250)725-4218; fax 725-2527; focs@web.net.

Students RIOT for Kenya's Forest

The campaign to preserve the threatened Karura forest just outside of Kenya's capital of Nairobi escalated recently with the beginning of mass student actions (see *EF!J* December-January and February-March 1999). In mid-February University of Nairobi students and other demonstrators blocked a major street and clashed with riot police during consecutive days of protests against plans to develop and subdivide the virgin forest, which is a vital green lung for Nairobi, a densely populated and congested city of more than three million.

Students blocked a major street with stones and tree trunks, prompting police action to clear and reopen the road. When police charged, some 300 students pelted them with stones and other projectiles. Police fired tear gas and live ammunition and beat students with clubs. Dozens of protesters and police officers were injured.

Three opposition legislators and an environmental activist recently pleaded not guilty to inciting violence at the protests. Legislators James Orengo, David Mwenje and Njehu Gatabaki and Green Belt Movement activist John Makanga were released on $1,650 bail each at their arraignment. Orengo was one of several legislators who addressed university students during their protest of the allocation of plots in the state-owned forest to private individuals and firms. Orengo reportedly told the students to continue the protest.

The protest began when students marched to the forest to plant seedlings. When police chased them away, they continued to downtown Nairobi, smashing car and shop windows along the way. The demonstrations spread to Kenyatta University, 10 miles northeast of the capitol. Authorities have closed Nairobi University indefinitely.

President Moi has noted that most of the Kenyan capitol was built by British colonialists on forest land and said he does not see why people are protesting when the growing city needs more space for housing. Environmentalists have claimed that the president has shuffled around the Cabinet, booting out anyone remotely reformist in response to the protests. They also say he has gone on record denouncing the opponents of the land grab as attempting to foment violence and tribal divisions.

While documenting the uprising, many journalists have been attacked, kidnapped and badly injured for writing about the corrupt public forest grab. As for now, the standoff continues with the anticipation of forest clearing and housing construction to begin in March.

Send support to Green Belt Movement, POB 67545, Nairobi, Kenya. Protests may be made to Kenyan President Daniel T. arap Moi, POB 30510, Nairobi, Kenya and Mr. Lotodo, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, POB 30126, Nairobi, Kenya.

DYING FOR OIL IN NIGERIA

BY MONICA WILSON

On February 17, 1999, hundreds of villagers marched through the Nigerian village of Opia to commemorate the January 4 slaughter, when Chevron helicopters deployed soldiers who razed the village, burned houses, and raped and tortured residents. Four were confirmed dead, and 67 remain missing. Unfurling a banner reading "Chevron killed for oil," the villagers echoed a cry for justice heard throughout the Niger Delta.

For 40 years, residents of the delta have suffered under the polluting, negligent multinational oil corporations. Decades of pollution have left scars on the land; decades of repression and human rights violations have left scars on the population. Violence against residents of the delta skyrocketed last January, as protests and demands for environmental justice spread in the region.

The people of the Niger Delta have never been willing to quietly endure the inequalities of living in dire poverty, lacking basics such as clean water and education, while the oil under their feet provides 80 percent of the military government's income. The same government that hoards oil money and deprives people of basic services allows the land, air and water to be polluted by the oil industry. There is a strong history of civil disobedience and activism in the delta, which unfortunately has been ignored by international media for decades.

In recent years, global outcry against environmental racism in Nigeria has targeted Shell Nigeria's pollution and cooperation with the violent military. As the crackdown on residents increases, other oil companies are being scrutinized for their own ties to the military and the attacks against nonviolent protesters at oil facilities. Chevron helicopters have transported military forces at least twice to different protest sites. This February, three protesters were killed by soldiers near a facility operated by Agip, an Italian oil corporation. Nineteen people were reported dead February 1 outside Shell's major Forcados terminal.

The issue of environmental justice in Nigeria became international in 1995 with the military execution of nonviolent Ogoni rights leader Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others, following a sham military trial. Now, a more unified demand for justice and dialogue with the oil companies, military and communities is emerging, led by members of the Ijaw, Nigeria's fourth largest ethnic group. Tragically, the unification of the communities has been answered with violence instead of dialogue from the oil companies and government. Their response includes flooding the Niger Delta with warships, tanks and hundreds of military troops.

The Opia's protest against Chevron's cooperation in the attack on their village and nearby Ikiyan was followed by two actions in the United States calling for a suspension of oil operations in Nigeria.

Activists in Washington DC targeted Mobil to demand that it halt operations in Nigeria until all oil companies negotiate with communities affected by the oil industry. After Shell, Mobil extracts the most crude from Nigeria.

In San Francisco, a team hung two banners from flagpoles in front of Chevron's headquarters. This action intensified public scrutiny of Chevron, coming on the heels of a large demonstration in January. The activists extracted a promise for a meeting from Chevron officials to discuss the company's role in the recent crackdowns and the use of its equipment by the military (see *EF!J* Sept.-Oct. 1998).

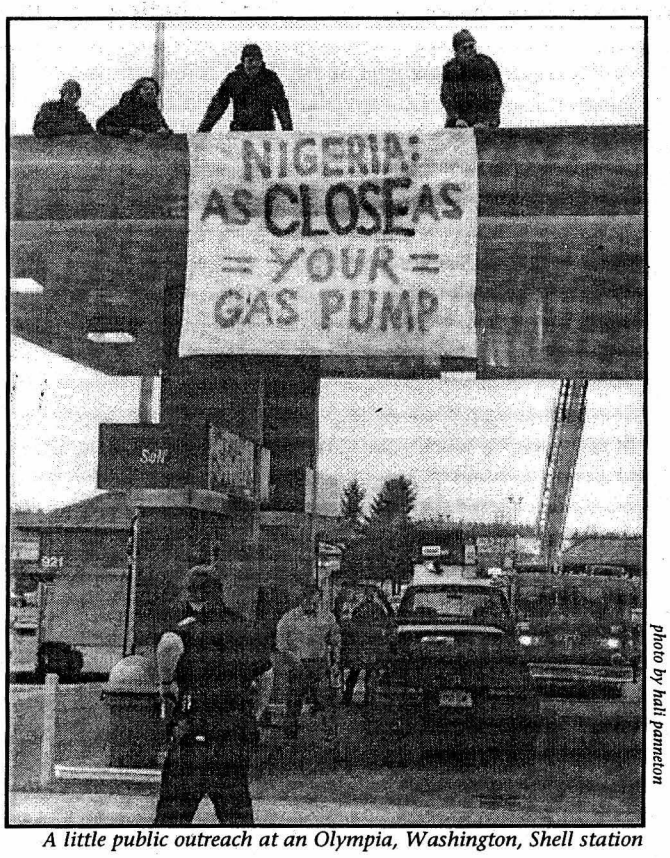


photo by hali panneton

A little public outreach at an Olympia, Washington, Shell station

Despite increased attention to the environmental and human rights conditions in the Niger Delta, pollution and environmental racism continue. A Nigerian newspaper reported on February 2, that fresh spillage from two Shell locations in the Ijaw homeland had spread through waterways, affecting 29 communities and destroying fish populations that some communities are economically reliant on. At another Shell site, reportedly closed by the company at the request of Ijaw activists, an explosion injured eight workers, all Nigerian.

Chevron and Shell, through the Nigerian government and their own actions, continue to oppress the Nigerian people and destroy the ecology of the delta. To get involved in the boycott Shell/Free Nigeria campaign contact Essential Action, POB 19405, Washington DC 20036; (202) 387-8030; action@essential.org; www.essential.org/action/shell.

Monica Wilson is campaign coordinator for Essential Action's Boycott Shell/Free Nigeria campaign.

Colombians Killed Fighting Dam

In the northern Colombian province of Cordoba, the Embera Katio Indians fear a massacre because of their protests against the Urra hydroelectric dam on the Sinu River. This dam will eventually flood thousands of acres of Embera Katio territory, destroying vital fishing areas and disrupting travel routes to market. One of their leaders has already been killed and their advisors, faced with harassment and death threats, have had to go into exile.

The Embera Katio live in the Darien Gap region of Panama and in northern Colombia, much as they have for centuries, traveling across large areas to fish, hunt and gather.

They have successfully forced the government to temporarily halt construction of the Urra dam while it considers indigenous rights. But local landowners, who stand to gain financially from the dam, have brought in the paramilitary group, *Cordoba and Uraba Self-Defense*, which Survival International says has, "the tacit support of the provincial authorities and the army."

On August 25, 1998, it executed one of the most important Embera leaders, 60-year-old Alonso Dominco Jarupia. Other members of his family narrowly escaped. The paramilitaries had with them a list of five other indigenous people they were going to kill. In addition, the staff of the *Organization Nacional Indigena De Columbia* (ONIC), the Indian organization supporting the Embera, received death threats. After the attempted abduction of one of the three advisors to the ONIC, all three were forced to leave the country. In December and January, paramilitary forces killed another six indigenous people protesting the construction of the Urra dam. Ten others have been abducted, according to Amnesty International.

The Embera Katio's problems began in 1993 with the beginning of dam construction. The company organizing the hydroelectric project is the state-owned Urra SA, which has contracted with the Swedish company Skanska and the Russian firm Energomachiexport to build the dam. Although Urra SA had agreed to compensate the Embera, the company later reneged on the arrangement.

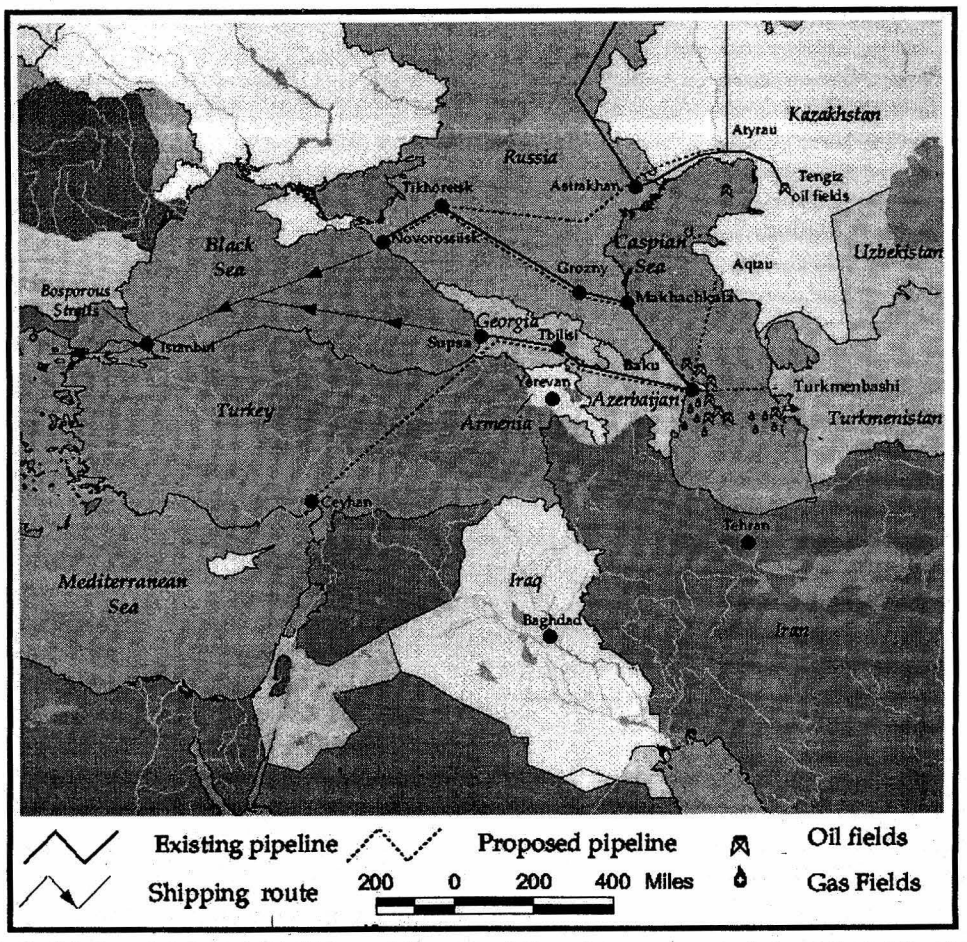
On November 10, 1998, the Constitutional Court made its final ruling in the Indians' favor, finding that the project can now only be completed with the Embera Katio's consent. Paramilitaries have threatened to continue their massacre should the dam not be completed and have entered the Embera Katio community of Kipardo in Columbia's Karagabi indigenous reserve, forcing families to leave their homes and warning that the region could no longer escape the counter-insurgency war.

Please write President Andreas Pastrana Arango, Casa de Narino, Carrere 8 No. 7-26, Santefe de Bogota, DC, Columbia, South America and A. Ian Gillespie, President, Export Development Corporation, 151 O'Connor St., Ottawa, Canada, K1A1K3 and respectfully request that the Embera Katio people be guaranteed safety and that they be fairly compensated. For more information contact Abya Yala, Fund for Indigenous Self-Development in South and Meso America, 678 13th St. #100, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 763-6553; fax 763-6588; http://ayf.nativeweb.org/contents.htm.

Oily Execs and Toxic Relics
in the Caspian Sea

BY RORY COX

In January 1999, oil executives from 12 different international oil concerns celebrated the opening of a new trans-Caucasus pipeline by smearing oil on their faces. The pipeline, known as "Azeri Early Oil," runs from Baku, Azerbaijan, on the Caspian coast, to Supsa, Georgia, and carries only a modest amount of oil. It is a demonstration project for a larger pipeline, the route of which is currently in dispute but whose economic impact has been hailed as the "contract of the century" for the oil companies (which include Amoco-BP, Pennzoil, Exxon and nine other companies that span the globe). This consortium is known as the Azeri International Operating Company.



The Caspian Sea is about the size of California, and on its shores lie the boundaries of Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. The region is no stranger to outsiders who have coveted its oil and left behind an impoverished and polluted wasteland. Oil extraction began in the region in 1847 and, by the beginning of the 20th century, accounted for about 50 percent of the world's oil production. The remnants of this era—thousands of rusted, abandoned oil derricks and pools of oil that have contaminated the soil—still dot the landscape around the shore of the Caspian. These derricks helped fuel fortunes such as those of John D. Rockefeller and Alfred Nobel.

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the independence of the former Soviet republics, the Caspian seems to be up for grabs for the whole oil-consuming world once again. This new oil rush also makes it one of the hottest spots in the world geopolitically. Spanning the former Soviet Union and the Middle East, the Caspian and its oil are at the center of conflict between local ethnic groups and major international actors.

By the time the Soviets took over the land in the 1920s, the onshore oil reserves had virtually been emptied, but there was still plenty of oil underneath the Caspian to fuel the Soviets' industrial drive. They left their own relics, including the notorious Oily Rocks, a massive complex of rotting oil platforms that goes on for as far as the eye can see. The structures are now inoperative, turning orange with rust and falling into the sea.

In the history of the Caspian, the environment has never been much of a concern. The oil barons at the turn of the century left behind a landscape pockmarked with their rusting oil infrastructure. The Soviets' rampant exploitation of the underwater Caspian oil fields left much of the water polluted. In addition, the Volga River, the endpoint for much of Russia's industrial waste, empties into the Caspian, further polluting the inland sea.

But there is plenty in the Caspian worth saving and restoring. It supports rich aquatic, avian and terrestrial biodiversity that will not survive increased oil pollution. The Caspian contains over 120 species of fish, including 90 percent of the world's sturgeon, a major source of the famous black caviar. It is also home to the Caspian seal, which is listed by the World Conservation Union as a vulnerable species. The fisheries of the Caspian have already experienced serious decline.

On the northern shore of the Caspian lies the Astrakhanski Zapovednik nature preserve, providing habitat to 33 mammal species, 289 plants species, 256 bird species, 58 fish species and 1,249 insect species. Over 35 nesting pairs of the largest bird of prey in Europe, the increasingly rare white-tailed eagle, make their homes here. Each winter, the shallow eastern shore of the Caspian attracts some five to eight million birds belonging to 120 species. Overlooking environmental concerns in Caspian oil development puts this already strained biodiversity at serious risk.

The pipeline the oily execs were celebrating was the first project in the Caspian to receive funding from taxpayer-supported international finance institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation.

These institutions claim that the Azeri project poses only minimal environmental risk. However, a review of seven volumes of Environmental Impact Assessment volumes revealed that the EIAs pledge to use "best available technology not entailing excessive costs," meaning that the project sponsors will provide only those protective measures they are willing to put into place. This represents no "standard" at all. For example, an underwater pipeline would discharge waste into an area where Caspian sturgeon spawn because extending it, though safer, would be costlier.

The Caspian region is one of poverty, and there are few signs that an influx of petro-dollars will result in a fairer distribution of wealth. An Azerbaijan government official claims the country will develop "like Norway, not Nigeria." From all media accounts, however, there are still plenty of people living in slums and shanty towns, while a much smaller percentage of the newly rich live in opulent homes and apartments. This is a proven recipe for pipeline sabotage and continued ethnic strife.

It is clear that many environmental considerations are being overlooked as companies and countries rush to claim the bounty of oil resources that they believe lie beneath the waters of the Caspian. These major deficiencies must be corrected if the region is to avoid environmental and social catastrophe.

For more information contact Rory Cox at Pacific Environment and Resources Center (PERC), 1440 Broadway St, Suite 306, Oakland, CA 94612; perc@igc.org. For a full report on Caspian Sea oil development, visit PERC's website at www.pacenv.org.

Hidden Eco Village Discovered
After Four Years

There was nothing on any map so, when a pilot caught a glimpse of something mysterious concealed on a Welsh hillside, he decided to take a closer look. What he found that October day astonished him. Hidden in the middle of a national park was a secret village of half a dozen buildings clustered around a domelike structure erected on stilts. For four years the tiny community had entirely escaped the authorities' attention. But now the 22 residents of the eco-village face the prospect of their outbuildings and workshops being bulldozed because they were built without permission.

The pilot surveying the Pembrokeshire National Park caught a glimpse of sunlight reflecting off a solar panel in the entirely self-sufficient village, which generates its own electricity, grows its own food, has solar heat and gets water from a local stream. When planning officials investigated they found buildings made from turf and wood behind a screen of trees and shrubs well off the beaten track.

The villagers said they would fight the decision to demolish the community they spent years creating. "I don't feel they understand what we are trying to do. If we have lived here for years without being noticed, then what harm can we be doing? It's a very experimental project in its early stages, and I think we needed to show them what we are trying to achieve. We are aiming to address the problem of rural depopulation by taking care of the land and ensuring that people can live in a sustainable way," said Liz Terry. The villagers are appealing the ruling by the Pembrokeshire National Park authority, and the issue is likely to go before a public inquiry. The six buildings facing demolition include the dome, where the members of the community meet and work, a roundhouse with a turf roof, a wooden marquee, wood store and workshop. They were all constructed of timber from nearby woods. A small lake, which the commune members dug, will also be filled in.

The 12 adults and 10 children in the community are mainly vegetarian and grow all their own vegetables. In addition to the solar panels set in the roofs of the buildings, the commune has a wind generator and a water turbine that uses the water of a small stream. It generates enough power for heating, lighting and even the community's one computer. Villagers draw water from the stream and use wood from a nearby copse to fuel their fires.

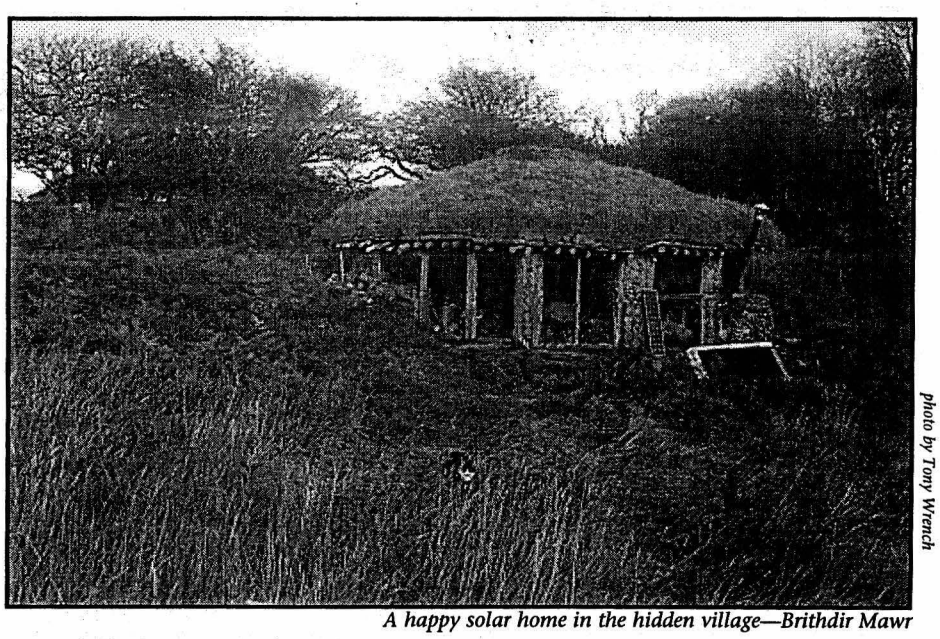


photo by Tony Wrench

A happy solar home in the hidden village—Brithdir Mawr

The village, called Brithdir Mawr, was set up by architectural historian, Julian Orbach, and his wife, Emma, in the foothills of Mount Carningli, near Newport, Pembrokeshire, four years ago. They converted outbuildings into a hostel that is now used by backpackers. Members teach a range of courses in subjects such as straw bale building, dry stone walling, singing, music and voice training to raise money for the community.

Let the Americans Eat Cake!

A Report from the British EF! Winter Meeting

BY JOHN BOWLING

They're tunneling to China, building scaffold towers to the moon, sacking corporate headquarters and hurling computers out the windows of executive suites. They unabashedly destroy property that is destroying the Earth, and they're tearing the road out from under car culture and reclaiming the streets. They're trashing genetically engineered test crops wherever they sprout up, and they're chasing the aristocracy all over the countryside sabbing hunts. Simply put, they're on a rampage and will not stop until they dismantle global capitalism in defense of the Earth.

If you have traveled to Britain then you already know who I'm writing about. If not, all I can say is the attitude of sheer defiance in British activist circles is the sort our North American movement needs if we ever want to win (or at least play the game more effectively). I don't romanticize English activists. They share many of the same social dilemmas and dysfunctions we do. They eat greasy, high-processed crap, drink like fish, smoke like stacks, exercise less than most of the bureaucrats they fight and incestuously fool around with each other. But they share an unbridled passion for radical social change that is expressed with both witty and highly confrontational actions.

Just one week prior to the North American Organizers Conference in Mexico, I was sitting in a Nottingham community center swapping stories and talkin' revolution with a colorful lot of activists gathered for their first island-wide conference, the Winter Moot. A group of people had organized all the logistical aspects of the conference (travel, food, accommodations, blah, blah, blah...), just as we do here. However, instead of hastily knocking out the agenda the evening of the conference, they solicited ideas and discussion topics from people several months in advance. A packet of anonymous discussion papers was compiled and circulated weeks before the conference. Everything from elitism, sexism, racism and classism to revolution, reform, structure, structurelessness, tactics, a call to arms and the philosophies of communism, capitalism and anarchism was blended into a loose-knit, but focused, three-day power strategy session.

The meeting began with a focused discussion on improving communication and facing conflicts within EF!. Small groups reported three points from their discussion to the large group for review. After dinner, people presented stories of resistance struggles from around the world. There was a great eyewitness account of the revolution in Chiapas. Everyone else went to the pub to get pissed.

The next day started bright and early at 9 a.m. with a major discussion of what we are trying to achieve, our visions and aims. Anarchism and its relevance to the movement, with an emphasis on the ideals of mutual aid, cooperation, autonomy and personal responsibility, was a deeply probed topic. Once we decided we were going to overthrow global capitalism we discussed our visions of the free ecological society that we want to see evolve—although no one purported to have a blueprint for the dream.

That afternoon the conversation moved into the realm of how we get there. National days of action were felt to be effective, not just in and of themselves, but linked strategically to campaigns. Skill-sharing was identified as something that needs to be improved and included in all future gatherings. Establishing links with other movements was a popular idea, with emphasis on who to link with, how and when to do it and what to avoid. Using the mainstream media as a vehicle to "get there" was soundly denounced based on people's experiences with message and messenger manipulation. People want to see our own media created and utilized. After dinner there was time for open discussion, entertainment and hanging out.

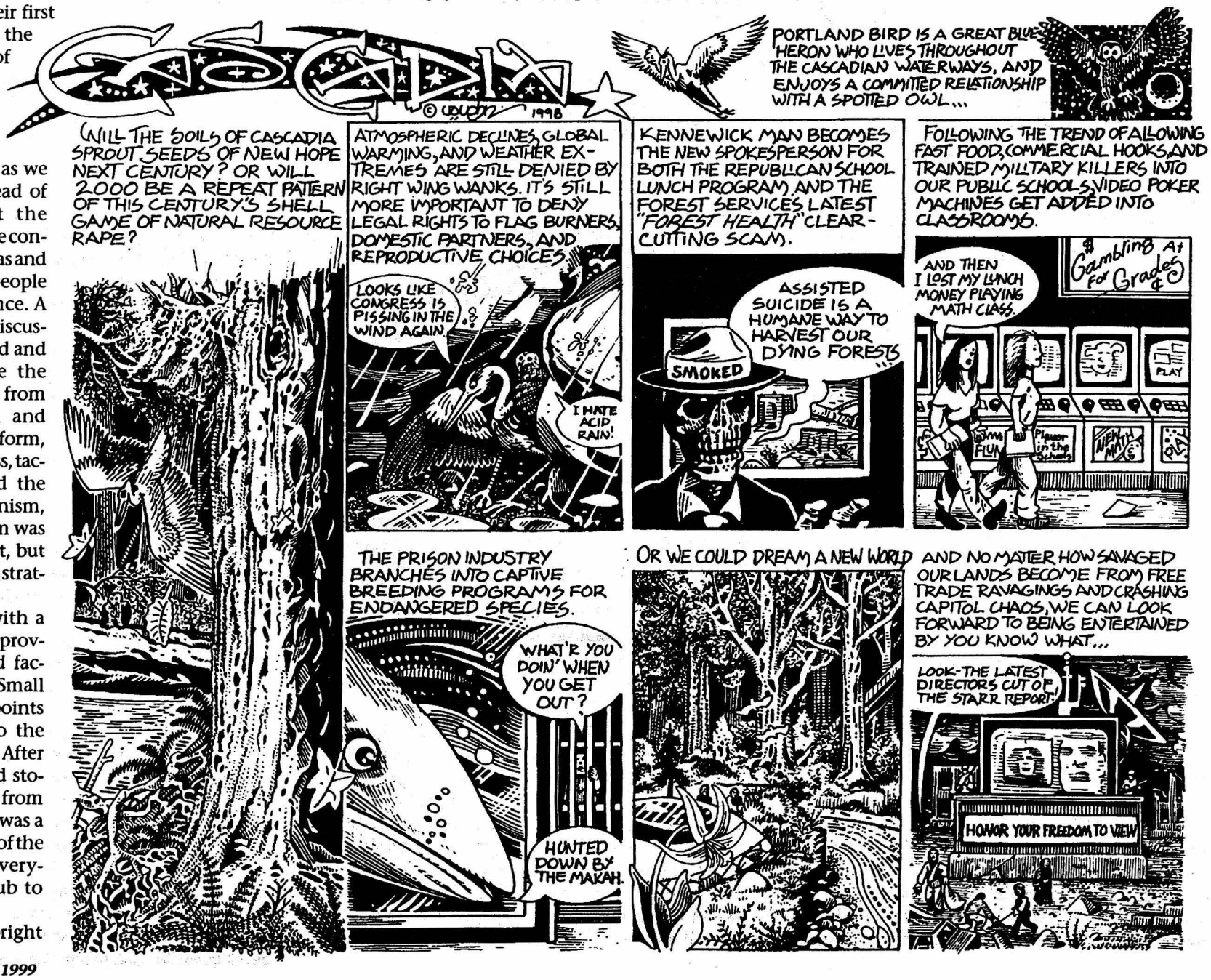
The last day opened with an intimate discussion in our small groups regarding how we work within our groups and communities and sustain ourselves without going crazy. A questionnaire stimulated discussion, asking: If you disappeared tomorrow would the things you are involved in fall apart? Do others know what you do? Could they take on your role? Do you have a life outside activism? How big a part of your life is it? When did you last sleep with someone outside activism? This exercise used humor to help people raise some of the harder-to-discuss issues that are all too often shied away from at gatherings. What's more, the questionnaire solicited everyone's participation and led to a hilarious and highly productive discussion on ways to better sustain ourselves and support each other.

That afternoon the conference closed with a "From Rants to Reality" discussion. Ways to strengthen the network were shared. A call was put out encouraging activists to communicate more with the editors of the British newsletter, *EF! Action Update* (something the *Earth First! Journal* needs from both British and North American activists!). Practical ways to skill-share, build links with other activists and communities, and deal with personal conflict within the movement were addressed.

If you lumped all the radical North American groups together and put them next to the British groups, we'd look pretty much the same. Our tactics are even similar. It was crazy experiencing the similarities of our subcultures within distant industrial societies and political contexts. But the differences really amazed me. Many activists don't identify themselves as Earth First!ers but as autonomous individuals. They disdain labels, even though they are heralded by the public as "ecowarriors" (seriously!). When one group does something another group doesn't agree with, there is no affiliation and therefore no alienation. This doesn't happen much over there anyway because they enjoy a lot of public sympathy even when they fuck shit up. A national poll revealed that the majority of people in British society are more concerned with police surveillance (there's a police camera on every street!) than property destruction associated with protests. Here, mainstream Americans seem to worship property over any life.

Another big difference is that Britain doesn't have an organized wise use movement. They also don't have radical biodiversity groups and often do litigation themselves. We do. Most British cops don't carry guns and are generally more well behaved and less prone to use pain compliance holds, pepper spray, abject violence and other forms of brutality on activists than sadistic American cops.

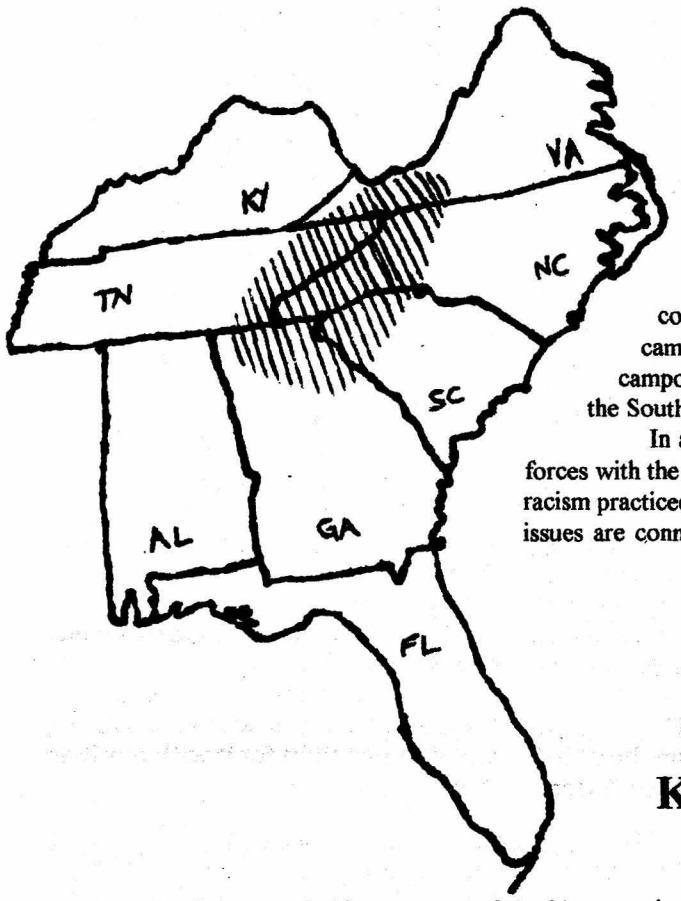
The biggest difference is that they don't have wilderness. With the exception of a little in Wales and Northern Scotland, it's gone. They fight tooth and nail for every little patch of trees and bounce cops around like dolls. They rage against open cast mining, road building, genetic engineering and every other diabolical plot against nature without the inspiration of wild nature herself. Even though they have major advantages in Britain, such as unemployment checks from the government and legal standing to freely squat buildings, they don't have wilderness. We do, and we must fight for it with our lives if we are to save it.


CASCADIA
© UDUCHT 1998
PORTLAND BIRD IS A GREAT BLUE HERON WHO LIVES THROUGHOUT THE CASCADIAN WATERWAYS, AND ENJOYS A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH A SPOTTED OWL...
WILL THE SOILS OF CASCADIA SPROUT SEEDS OF NEW HOPE NEXT CENTURY? OR WILL 2000 BE A REPEAT PATERN OF THIS CENTURY'S SHELL GAME OF NATURAL RESOURCE RAPE?
ATMOSPHERIC DECLINES, GLOBAL WARMING, AND WEATHER EXTREMES ARE STILL DENIED BY RIGHT WING WANKS. IT'S STILL MORE IMPORTANT TO DENY LEGAL RIGHTS TO FLAG BURNERS, DOMESTIC PARTNERS, AND REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES.
LOOKS LIKE CONGRESS IS PISSING IN THE WIND AGAIN.
I HATE ACID RAIN!
KENNEWICK MAN BECOMES THE NEW SPOKESPERSON FOR BOTH THE REPUBLICAN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM AND THE FOREST SERVICES LATEST "FOREST HEALTH" CLEAR-CUTTING SCAM.
SMOKED
ASSISTED SUICIDE IS A HUMANE WAY TO HARVEST OUR DYING FORESTS
FOLLOWING THE TREND OF ALLOWING FAST FOOD, COMMERCIAL HOOKS, AND TRAINED MILITARY KILLERS INTO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, VIDEO POKER MACHINES GET ADDED INTO CLASSROOMS.
AND THEN I LOST MY LUNCH MONEY PLAYING MATH CLASS.
$ Gambling At For Grades ¢
PLAY
THE PRISON INDUSTRY BRANCHES INTO CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES.
WHAT'R YOU DOIN' WHEN YOU GET OUT?
HUNTED DOWN BY THE MAKAH.
OR WE COULD DREAM A NEW WORLD
AND NO MATTER HOW SAVAGED OUR LANDS BECOME FROM FREE TRADE RAVAGINGS AND CRASHING CAPITOL CHAOS, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO BEING ENTERTAINED BY YOU KNOW WHAT...
LOOK-THE LATEST DIRECTORS CUT OF THE STARR REPORT!
HONOR YOUR FREEDOM TO VIEW

Katúah Earth First!

"You should never put on your best trousers when you go out to fight for freedom and truth."

- Henrik Ibsen



The Katuah bioregion rises out of Northern Georgia, extending up through South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina and into Virginia. It is the name given to the Blue Ridge Mountain region. This bioregion contains the highest mountain in Eastern North America: Mt. Mitchell.

Katuah EF! isn't like most Earth First! groups. We are not solely based in one town or even one state. KEF!-ers come from Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia. Although we are all autonomous groups, we come together for campaign strategy, direct actions, and campouts on the solstices and equinoxes. Y'all are welcome to join us for these campouts—often there is an action afterwards. Our work is centered on three issues: fighting the proliferation of chip mills in the Southeast, preventing TVA from producing tritium and destroying habitat, and monitoring and challenging timber sales.

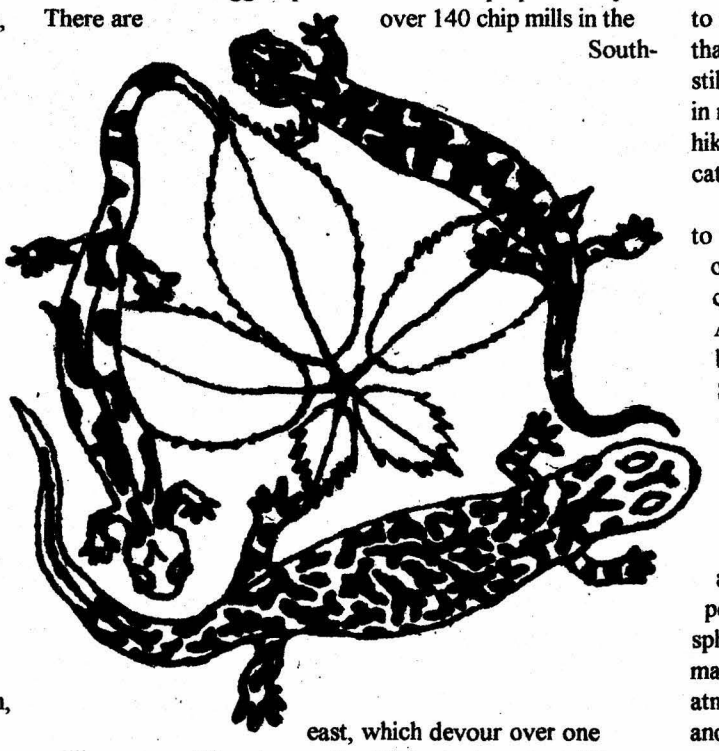
In addition to environmental issues, we engage ourselves in social justice issues such as rallying against the KKK, joining forces with the local IWW to bring Ramona Africa to the South, supporting the Zapatista Movement, and fighting environmental racism practiced by corporations such as Shell. These are just some of the issues we work on — Katuah EF! believes that all of these issues are connected.

KATÚAH - OUR MOUNTAIN HOME

The Southern Appalachians are one of Earth's oldest existing mountain chains and North America's most biologically diverse temperate forest. The area from Northeast Alabama and North Georgia to Roanoke, Virginia was once inhabited by the Cherokee, who named it *Katuah*. This region that we call home contains some of the best-preserved enclaves of Appalachian culture and wilderness, both of which are under great stress (like most of the planet) from pollution, development, resource exploitation and profiteering attitudes. While Katuah has some of the most intact wilderness in the east, only 4% of the region is permanently protected from logging and development and 87% is privately owned, offering virtually no protection.

The biodiversity of Katuah is incredible. There are over 130 species of trees (more than in all of Europe!), 1500 species of flowering plants, 40 species of salamanders, 70 species of fish, 1800 species of fungi, 80 species mammals...the list goes on. Unfortunately, this wonderful ecosystem is in close proximity to the eastern megalopolis and is within a day's drive of approximately 50 million people. Because of its immediacy to large population centers, Katuah is exposed to the whole gambit of environmental pressures, from TVA nukes to deforestation and air pollution. All of these problems are serious threats and not likely to change without serious adjustments to the lifestyle and mentality of people worldwide (we at KEF! try to open a few eyes every day). The most pressing problems are air pollution, deforestation, and road building.

Local people have felled trees in the Southern Appalachians since European settlement. They continued to log even after the timber barons denuded virtually every hillside in the 1920's. Big timber interests then moved to the Northwest, where they have since cut 95% of the ancient forests there. Local people in Katuah were able to continue making a living off logging sustainably enough to allow the forest to regenerate to a mature and healthy state today. As the timber industry has nearly completed its abuse of the Northwest, it has once again begun looking to the Southeast for timber sources. Willamette, Norboard, and Champion are just a few timber giants licking their lips at the prospect of our hardwood forests. In the 1990's the Southeast became the nation's biggest producer of lumber and the world's biggest producer of wood pulp and chips. There are over 140 chip mills in the South-



east, which devour over one million acres of forest annually. We're losing a lot of forest but there is still much to protect, mainly the approximately two million acres of national forest in Katuah. According to tree specialist Rob Messick, there are at least 120,000 acres of old growth forest in Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests alone. Tragically, only 6% of Pisgah and Nantahala N.F. (which are approximately 13% of Western NC) are permanently protected from logging. These remote habitats are crucial for black bear, the endangered eastern cougar and the Junaluska salamander.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife *dis-*Service does not acknowledge the existence of the eastern cougar. If it did, the management of public land in Katuah would probably be drastically altered (for the better) because cougars require hundreds of square miles in which to range, and the Endangered Species Act would afford that habitat more protection. The possibility that cougars still inhabit Katuah is accepted as fact by locals. Sightings in rural areas are rare, but not unheard of. Once while hiking on Hurricane Creek in Haywood County, NC, I saw a cat print in the mud that was bigger than my fist!

Air pollution is perhaps the most insidious threat to the inhabitants of Katuah in that a lot of it comes from outside our bioregion. Because the prevailing winds come from the west and southwest, the Southern Appalachians are exposed to the industrial and automobile emissions from the Gulf coast to Chicago. The Spruce fir trees that dominate the forest above 5000' are under major stress from acid deposition; above six thousand feet the dead trees create a skeleton forest. The second imminent form of air pollution in Katuah is tropospheric (low atmosphere) ozone. Ozone is a corrosive gas that passes through the cell walls of the alveoli in the lungs, allowing fluid to seep in and permanently scarring lung tissue in animals. Tropospheric ozone damages the stomates of plants in a similar manner. The EPA lists the toxic level for ozone in the lower atmosphere as 55 ppm (parts per million). In the summer and fall of 1998 readings in the Smoky and Craggy Mountains outside of Asheville were consistently above 80 ppm. No one knows what long term consequences these high levels of ozone will bring to the bioregion, but the local flora has already started to suffer.

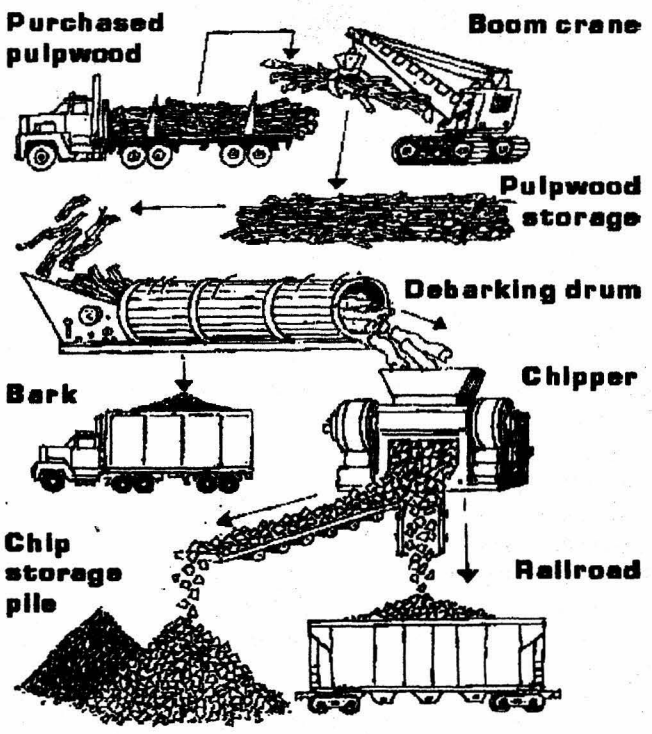
The landscapes and ecology of Katuah are incredibly beautiful and diverse. The people of Katuah need to recognize these things as one of the most valuable components of our lives and stand up to the corporate interests and their government henchmen who wish to develop, exploit and pollute these mountains.

Struggles and Trium

CHIP MILLS 101

The Southeast is now the largest pulp producer in the world; we currently produce about 25% of the world's supply of paper and paperboard. This includes approximately 70% of the pulp consumed by the United States. In order to facilitate this demand, large corporations moved out of the over-cut Northwest and constructed **chip mills** throughout the region. A chip mill is a highly mechanized facility that grinds whole logs into wood chips to be used for paper, particle board, and other products. Since 1985, over 100 chip mills have been constructed in our bioregion.

An estimated 1.2 million acres of forests are cleared every year to feed the 140 chip mills that are currently operating in the Southeast. This spells disaster for our bioregion if we do not address this issue.



Chipmills:

— **Clearcut our native forests**. Chip mills are highly mechanized, which means that they work fast and furious, depending on clearcutting to keep up this pace. Chip mills will take trees as small as four inches in diameter for chipping, so there's no reason for loggers to leave much of anything behind. We all know what this leads to: erosion leaves silt in our streams and rivers, suffocating water life and polluting our drinking water. Conversion of clearcut areas into pine plantations destroys the amazing biodiversity of this region (see article page 1) and clearcuts and logging roads destroy and fragment wildlife habitat that is essential to the survival of many species; finally, excessive logging spoils the beauty of these magical mountains. The environmental devastation that results from the practices of chip mills is unacceptable.

— **Put local sawmills and furniture makers out of business.** Instead of being left to mature, trees as small as four inches in diameter are cut and chipped for pulp; this leaves less and less hardwood for lumber. One chip mill devours more wood in one month than an average sized sawmill consumes in an entire year. As a result, local businesses that often use selective logging instead of clearcutting are forced out of business. These people are important to the local economy, and employ more people in the long run than chip mills.

— **Provide a minimal number of jobs.** In fact, a chip mill only employs 5 to 6 people because it depends so heavily on the work of high-capacity machinery. If you factor in jobs lost when local businesses go under, a community-wide net loss of jobs often results when a chip mill is constructed.

— **Lower property values.** As a result of the constant presence of logging trucks and the persistent loud noise made by the debarker used at Willamette Industries' Kane, Pennsylvania chip mill, property values in the surrounding community have been reduced by as much as 50%.

— **Are highly mobile.** Chip mills are easy to build and easy to move. They are built by large corporations that usually do not have many connections to the community. So when their 60-mile sourcing area is cut to pieces, the company can just pick up and move to another location, leaving the local community behind with clearcuts and pine plantations.

All of this equals devastation for the Appalachian forests and communities that have only now managed to build their strength back up from the exploitation of the region at the turn of the century by logging and mining companies. The proliferation of chip mills in the Southeast must be not only challenged at a corporate level but at a consumer level as well. As long as public demand for disposable paper products is high, these high-capacity machines of destruction will continue their rampage across the Southlands.

THEY'RE BACK....

Willamette Industries, Inc. of Portland, Oregon, is a multinational corporation known for its clearcutting and deforestation in the Pacific Northwest and other regions of the country. Recently, they have been shifting their focus to the Southeast, along with other large corporations such as Norbord Industries of Canada.

Though their project received much opposition from many local citizens and activist groups, Willamette recently constructed a chip mill in the small town of Union Mills, in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Willamette will cut trees within a radius of 60 miles surrounding the mill in Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. This area includes the Nantahala, Pisgah, northern Cherokee and Sumter National Forests. Once the trees are processed in Union Mills, they are transported to paper mills in South Carolina and Tennessee.

Though there are many other companies, such as Norbord and Champion, that are operating chip mills in this region, KEF! is currently fighting hardest against Willamette because of their immediate and direct threat to our bioregion.

RETURN OF A GIANT

Katuah Earth First! has also been working with the American Chestnut Cooperators' Foundation to restore the American chestnut to the Katuah bioregion. American chestnuts comprised a quarter of the trees in the Appalachian mountains, from Mississippi to Maine, until a blight which entered the United States on Asian nursery stock imported to New York killed off the majority of the species between 1900 and 1940. Chestnut trees often reached a height of over 100 feet, and they were the most dependable source of mast for bears and other wildlife, because they bloom in the end of June when all danger of frost has passed. The loss of the American chestnut probably had as much of a negative impact on wildlife populations as development and deforestation cause today.

Therefore, we feel that it is important to be an active part of the American chestnut restoration. KEF! raised money to purchase and plant 500 chestnut seedlings this fall, and we have committed to monitoring their survival in our continuing work with the ACCF. All these seedlings are produced through open pollination of the most blight-resistant trees. If you are interested in helping to restore the American chestnut, contact KEF!.

ONA MOVE!

MOVE is an earth centered movement founded by John Africa in Philadelphia that first gained attention in the early '70's for their radical notions of community empowerment, animal rights, environmental and racial justice and anarchism. Their uncompromising stand and willingness to confront the authorities brought the combined onslaught of the Philly cops, the PFD, the Mayor's office, the FOP, the FBI, and the BATF upon them not once but twice, in the form of military style assaults, that resulted in the death, injury, or imprisonment of most of the family. The last go-around ended with the Feds dropping an incendiary out of a helicopter and burning down most of the neighborhood! In Spring of '98, Katuah Earth First! and Asheville Industrial Workers of the World brought MOVE spokespersons Ramona Africa and Mario Hardy Africa on a speaking tour of the South, where they talked to large crowds, spreading the word of revolution through community action. MOVE adheres to the teachings and wisdom of John Africa which is nurturing *LIFE* and is described in countless documentation and demonstrations by MOVE members. Most of the talks were taped for replay on pirate radio; in Asheville, the local station broadcast live from the roof of the YWCA. KEF! provided transportation, food and security to Ramona and Mario throughout their stay in the South. The tour started in Atlanta, Georgia with a crowd of around 150. Then on to Athens, GA, Chattanooga, TN, Knoxville, TN, Asheville, NC, Boone, NC, and finally Greensboro, NC. Decentralized and cooperating EF! and IWW groups did a fantastic job of organizing, which made most of the events come off smoothly. Big props to all those who came up with the idea and all those who bottom-lined the details and did all the hard work. *ON THE MOVE!*

phs in Katúah Today

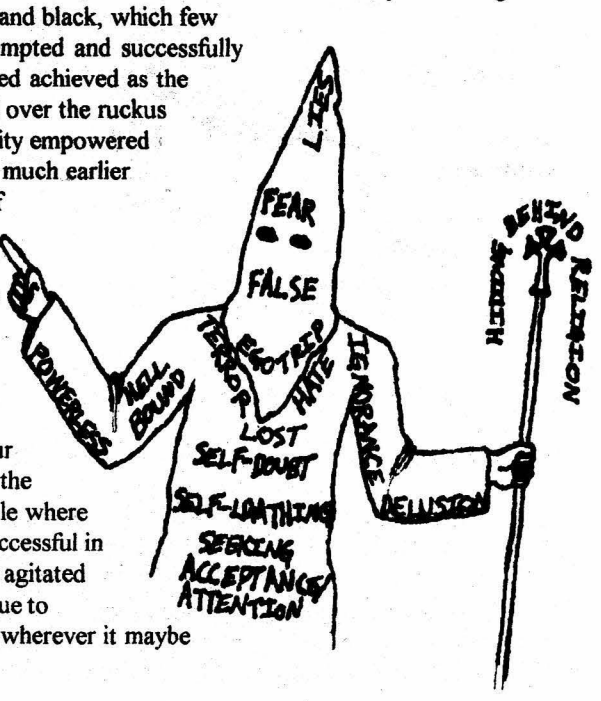
TODOS SOMOS INDIOS, *WE ARE ALL INDIANS*

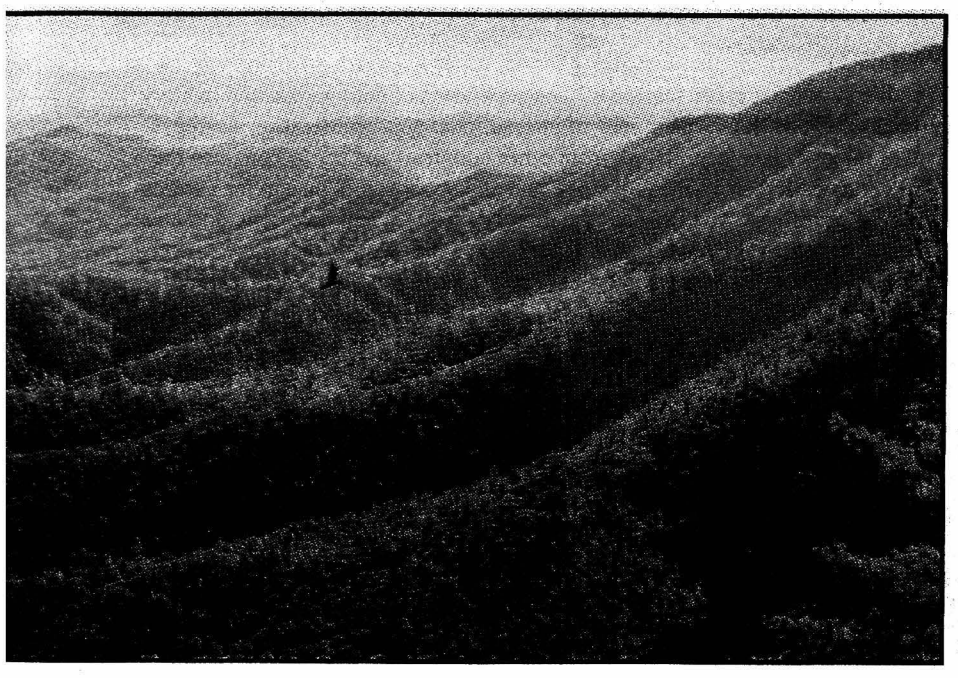
Out of humble respect for the indigenous peoples, Katuah is Cherokee for "the center of all that exists." KEF! has always attempted to recognize the rights of the indigenous peoples who live in the region as well as the ancestors, relatives and neighboring tribes who were either forcibly removed or killed in the colonialization of the region. KEF! works directly with many Eastern Band of Cherokees and volunteered to assist the Indigenous Environmental Network's Healing Mother Earth Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina in June of 1996. KEF! has stood side-by-side with tribal members to preserve burial mounds, confronting TVA and in the preservation of the watershed and forest ecosystems.

KEF! has demonstrated and networked in solidarity since the first news of the indigenous uprising in Chiapas, Mexico in January, 1994. We have been consistently exposing the related threats of neoliberalism while drawing the connections between the Zapatista struggle and the struggle worldwide for democracy, liberty and justice. KEF! fights plantation silviculture perpetrated by International Paper, the largest pulp and paper beast operating in Chiapas as well as North Carolina. KEF! will continue to fight the contamination of native populations from nuclear waste transportation and disposal. KEF! supports the recognition that the entire Katuah region is stolen land. KEF! believes in repatriation of areas to the traditional, indigenous peoples and cultures inasmuch as centuries of extinction and extirpation allow.

KEF! CONFRONTS THE KKK

On October 18, 1997, an estimated 30-50 neo-nazis and members of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan assembled in downtown Asheville, North Carolina for what they thought would be a police protected march and rally. APD, FBI, ATF, special riot cops and almost every sheriff from the county was in full force with tear gas launchers, snipers on roof tops, mounted police and automatic weapons all turned on the crowd of over 1000 anti-klan demonstrators. The police presence still could not contain the numerous, decentralized attacks that rained down upon the KKK. KEF! and other groups of concerned citizens had months to prepare and organize a counter-demonstration to oppose the murdering and racist organization which was hatefully instigating violence. KEF! takes a front-lines stance to nonviolently confront the KKK politically and in the streets. The chaotic and violent sea of racist vs. anti-racist was difficult to nonviolently participate in. However, KEF! demonstrated solidarity with a segment of society; mostly young, poor and black, which few groups have historically attempted and successfully managed. Success was indeed achieved as the KKK couldn't even be heard over the ruckus while the anti-racist community empowered itself to shut down the event much earlier than anticipated. Because of threats of violence made by the KKK after the debacle, and because of the diligence of activists, the City of Asheville denied another permit application by the KKK to march again and the racists were chased out of our town. KEF! also confronted the KKK in nearby Hendersonville where police and FBI were more successful in protecting the KKK from the agitated community. KEF! will continue to confront racism on all levels wherever it maybe trying to rear its ugly head.





EMPLOYEES TO BUY CHAMPION MILL, BUT WILL THE ENVIRONMENT BENEFIT?

In the town of Canton, North Carolina, the Champion International mill has been put up for sale and a tentative agreement, subject to approval by the union members, has been reached for the workers to buy it. A step forward for the environment and workers rights? We will see.

The Katúah bioregion is a favorite habitat of the paper mill due to its smaller, earlier successional forests (thanks to the last round of slaughter) and its lack of environmental regulations or earth-conscious populace. These conditions attracted Champion International to the area 80 years ago when it built a paper mill on the Pigeon river 40 miles upstream from the Tennessee state line. A town sprung up around the mill, was named Canton, and the mill has since been the most reliable polluter and employer in the county.

In 1997 Champion announced plans to sell the mill along with its Waynesville plant and five paper finishing plants in Georgia, Iowa, New Jersey, Ohio, and Texas. In response, the Smoky Mountain Local 507 of the United Paper Workers International Union formed Sunburst Corporation to buy the plant. If the deal goes through, ownership of the mill will be split among the union members, exempt and non-exempt salaried employees, and KPS Special Situations fund of New York which will help finance the deal. While the buy out may benefit the workers, its environmental impact is still uncertain.

The mill has long been a target of Earth First! and other environmental organizations in North Carolina and Tennessee because of its waste discharge into the Pigeon river. In the late 80's and early 90's, Champion spent $330 million to clean up its discharge. The cleanup managed to remove the measurable levels of dioxin from the stream, but stopped far short of cleaning it. In 1996, the residents of Tennessee filed a class action suit against the mill and North Carolina over an EPA approved variance that allowed the mill to exceed the federal Clean Water rules for discolored water. Downriver residents blame their higher cancer death rates on the coffee-colored pollutants which the plant discharges 40 miles upriver.

Despite the awful environmental record of the mill, some environmental groups: The Sierra Club, Western North Carolina Alliance (WNCA), Clean Water Fund, Dogwood Alliance, Pigeon River Council, and the Canoe Association, are supporting the buyout as a "win-win" outcome for the environment and workers. "They'll be much more motivates to take care of the river and air because its their children who will live there," said Charlotte Lockey, spokeswoman for WNC Sierra Club.

A great theory, but is there any proof?

Bob Gail, an ecologist with WNCA, says that there is "a sincere effort . . . to have a model, environmentally clean plant." Sincere efforts are wonderful, but the discharge from the plant is still coffee colored and no cleanup proposal has been put forward. Can a paper mill, a traditional source of water and air pollution, truly be "environmentally clean"? Can an 80 year-old plant be retrofitted with the latest Earth saving technology? The company estimates that the facilities up for sale employ 1600 people, and their records put the annual company payroll around $80 million and the average employee earnings at $50,000 plus benefits. Pretty good wages; will the workers give some of that up in the name of clean water and air?

"They aren't going to get the water and air cleaned up or alternate fiber sources as long as it is owned by Champion or if it is a US Superfund site," said Frank Adams, consultant to the Union from the Southern Appalachian Center for Corporate Leadership. This is definitely true, but will the employees do better?

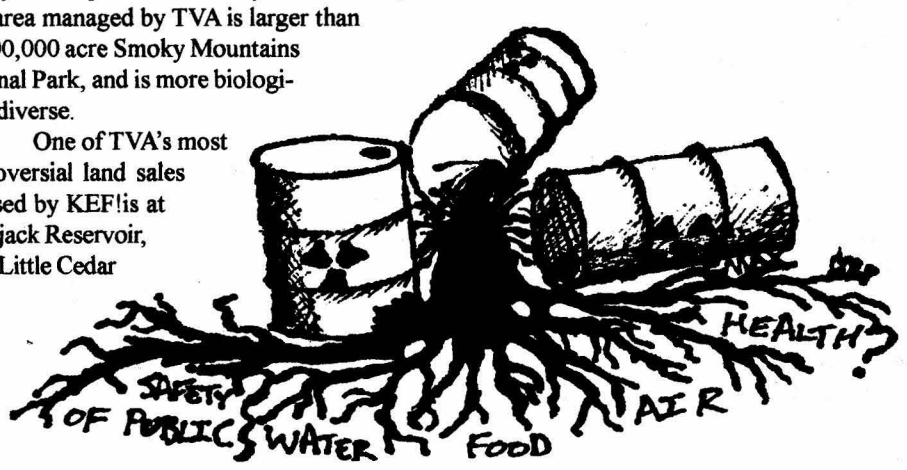
The answer to that question lies in our future.

Katúah Disappears Under Nuclear Waste

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was established by Congress in 1933 as a federal corporation whose supposed purpose was to provide flood control, navigation, and electric power to the Tennessee Valley region. Today they are the nation's largest electricity producer, and a major source of pollution threatening the ecology of Katuah. Posing as a steward of the Tennessee River Basin, it has wreaked havoc on the waterways, the ecosystem and the human populations. This article will only address the real estate and nuclear issues, but go to www.tngreen.com/air/ for the latest Clean Air Task Force report!

Back in the thirties when the TVA was being formed, much of the land was private and was either purchased or taken by force under eminent domain. All of this was turned into federal reserve land, which is theoretically public domain. Regardless, the indigenous natives' cultural and tribal interests have been historically ignored and even purposefully attacked by TVA. The TVA charter clearly states that its purpose is for the good of the people. Obviously in violation of Congress, TVA continues its rogue legacy.

TVA is headed by racist ex-FBI agent Norman Zigrossi, responsible for the extradition and imprisonment of Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier and who was once quoted saying of the indigenous peoples, "they're a conquered people, and when you're conquered, your future is dictated by those who you're conquered by.....". Zigrossi recently appointed another ex-FBI to TVA's police chief. Non-elected bureaucrats (one of whom just retired and now heads up Al Gore's election campaign in 2000) are now selling federal reserve lands all along the Tennessee River watershed and depositing the proceeds into an agency slush fund. TVA and developers held a scoping meeting in early '98 for the development of a study on their proposal to sell over 850 acres of public land along the shores of the Little Tennessee River (Tellico Lake recreation area) which for centuries served as the Cherokee Nation's capital city and was flooded by TVA's last damn project. Hundreds of people turned out, but only TVA officials and the developers were allowed to speak, and now they're going ahead with the plan to develop expansive, upper class housing and golf courses. TVA's new Shoreline Management Initiative calls for developing about 37% of the remaining shoreline - about a fifth of the total shoreline is already developed. *Their* study estimates 25,000 cultural sites. The total area managed by TVA is larger than the 500,000 acre Smoky Mountains National Park, and is more biologically diverse.



One of TVA's most controversial land sales opposed by KEF!is at Nickajack Reservoir, a.k.a. Little Cedar Mountain. This area was a seasonal home to the earliest recorded indigenous nomadic people in the area for tens-of-thousands of years back to the day of the mastadon and other extinct megafauna. The hunter/gatherers would spend roughly 1/4 of the year here fishing the famous bounty of the Tennessee River for millenium; mollusks and other shellfish from which they built mounds of shells that survive today in a few intact sites. One such site at Nickajack is already at risk of looting and more development would inevitably lead to more disturbance. After the European invasion, Nickajack was one of the major indigenous cultural centers and strongholds of resistance to colonialism for several generations. Also at Nickajack is one of only two caves which serve the maternity colonies of endangered grey bats in the Southeast. TVA plans to make condos, a golf course, and a marina for the rich! Little Cedar Mountain remains a focus of KEF! activities and will be challenged aggressively should TVA continue with its plans. Call the Sacred Little Cedar Mountain Defense Coalition at 423-842-7960 or 423-949-5922.

TVA manages 164 public recreation areas including Kentucky's Land Between the Lakes which at over 170,000 acres is by far TVA's largest single inholding. In September '98, the TVA board passed a resolution reaffirming it's long term commitment to LBL. TVA *says* they won't sell any of the land, they won't commercialize it - no golf courses, residential developments, etc., and no clear cutting. **But**- "timber will be selectively harvested ... to improve wildlife habitat", it will be managed for "multiple-use outdoor recreation, environmental education and **regional economic development**." - here comes trouble! The TVA recently released it's '99 Logging Plan for LBL and they have again 'categorically excluded' logging there. Only logging isn't excluded at all - protection from logging is excluded! They plan on logging 4.8 million board feet of hardwood this year, or about 31,000 trees! Part of the LBL cut plan is in a Bald Eagle management area. LBL also boasts the largest population of relatively free-roaming Eastern Woodland Bison and extirpated Elk herds. Native cultural sites are in the thousands.

The TVA also operates three nuclear power plants along the Tennessee River.The DOE recently selected TVA's Watts Bar and Sequoyah plants to produce tritium for the US nuclear weapons program. Retired US nuclear missiles from Savannah River Nuclear Facilities will be transported on interstate highways and railroads through the heart of the Southern Appalachians. KEF! will continue to vigorously oppose through all nonviolent means the genocidal plots of TVA and DOE and their nuclear programs.

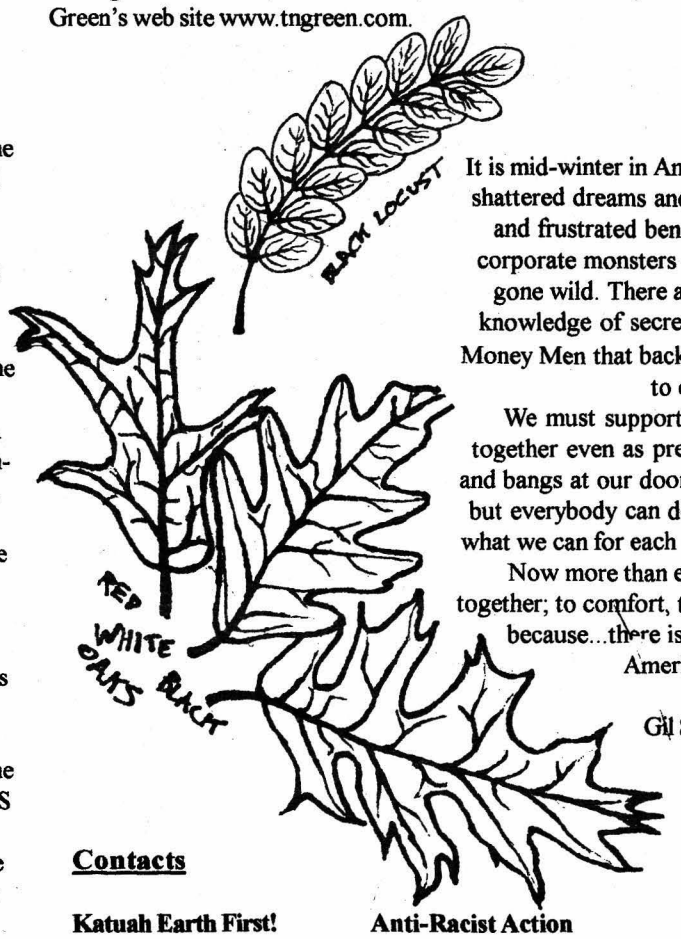
Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that boosts the destructive power of nuclear weapons. Tritium has a half-life of 12.3 years, meaning that in just over a dozen years, half of the available tritium decays. DOE is arguing that because tritium decays rapidly, more tritium must be produced to maintain the current nuclear arsenal. But - WE HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF TRITIUM! Tritium recycled from retired warheads can maintain our current arsenal until 2015. And with continued arms negotiations, less will be needed in the future. Besides that, tritium is a byproduct of the reaction process in nuclear power production. Daily, over 3000 gallons of tritium-laden wastewater is released by Watts Bar's *one* working reactor into the Tennessee River, the drinking water for millions downriver, including the city of Chattanooga. Sequoyah, also upriver from Chattanooga, has *two* reactors flushing tritium in wastewater daily into the Tennessee. Sequoyah was also called "the most likely nuclear plant in the US to experience a core-meltdown....." by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Studies link tritium to increased rates of birth defects, stillborns and the destruction of sex organs in human and other animal populations. Tritium also concentrates in fish and plants, spreading uncontrollably and completely throughout the food chain.

Using commercial nuclear reactors to produce tritium worsens the nation's nuclear waste crisis. The DOE's study for the Watts Bar plan estimates that a reactor used for tritium production would generate up to three times more highly radioactive spent fuel than normal, and would also result in roughly 50 percent more low level nuclear waste, some of which is highly radioactive. Another point is that these plants were not originally built to handle tritium production, an can't really be safely modified. It took over 20 years for Watts Bar to come on line the first time, and most of the parts are old and malfunctioning. There have been over 450 individual complaints registered with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over safety violations and employee harrassment at Watts Bar alone. DOE's former tritium production facilities have all had accidents which released tritium into the environment. Tritium is mostly uncontainable and if a modified facility fails to contain the isotope, much more will be released into the Tennessee River than normal. And since the plant will be used for the nuclear weapons program, security will have to be increased. Who do you think is going to have to pay for the increased security, waste disposal, and plant modifications? It's already cost US tax-payers 12 billion dollars to get Watts Bar barely functioning.

TVA gets millions of dollars for the initial testing and production, but that money will not lower electric rates - it will be used to service their *27 billion dollar debt!* What will we get? Radioactive bomb materials being produced in our backyard. And how many missiles on the other side of the world will have their targeting computers reprogrammed to reflect the plants' new status? We will be subsidizing the nuclear weapons program through our electric bills and taxes, and in return, we'll be put at risk.

The United States is the mother of all hypocrites!! The US is now using civilian reactors for military purposes. This decision violates an international nuclear pact as well as the Atomic Energy Act. Under Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the US is compelled to pursue complete disarmament of nuclear weapons. The current course of developing additional radioactive materials for weapons use is in violation of that treaty. The AEA keeps commercial and military nuclear power programs separate for obvious reasons: non-proliferation, safety, and security. Mixing these two ends is illegal and impolitic.

Hasn't the US actively discouraged other countries from using commercial reactors to produce weapons grade materials? The separation of commercial and military nuclear programs is one of the cornerstones of international non-proliferation strategy! How can the US honestly face negotiators from other countries and try to convince them to not make weapons with their civilian reactors, and allow inspectors on site for verification, when we do it ourselves? The US uses the threat of military and economic dominance to take the place of integrity, diplomacy and peace. That's the 'worlds only superpower'/ New World Order/Neoliberalist method. For more info contact the Southeast Center for Ecological Awareness, PO Box 2172, Asheville, NC 28802, 828-298-1251 or go to Tennessee Green's web site www.tngreen.com.



It is mid-winter in America; a man-made season of shattered dreams and shocked citizens, fumbling and frustrated beneath the crush of greed of corporate monsters and economic manipulators gone wild. There are bitter winds born in the knowledge of secret plans hatched by Western Money Men that backfired and grew out of control to eat its own.

We must support ourselves and stand fast together even as pressure disperses our enemies and bangs at our doors. No one can do everything, but everybody can do something. We must all do what we can for each other to weather this blizzard. Now more than ever all the family must be together; to comfort, to protect, to guide, to survive because...there is a revolution going on in America/the World.

Gil Scott-Heron

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Whitewell, TN 37397

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Asheville, NC 28801

Long hours and computer enslavement contributed by: Ben, Bill, Cathie, Colleen, Dane, J.J., Josh, Max, and Melissa

Revenge of the Salvage Rider

Helldun Threatens the Warner Wilderness

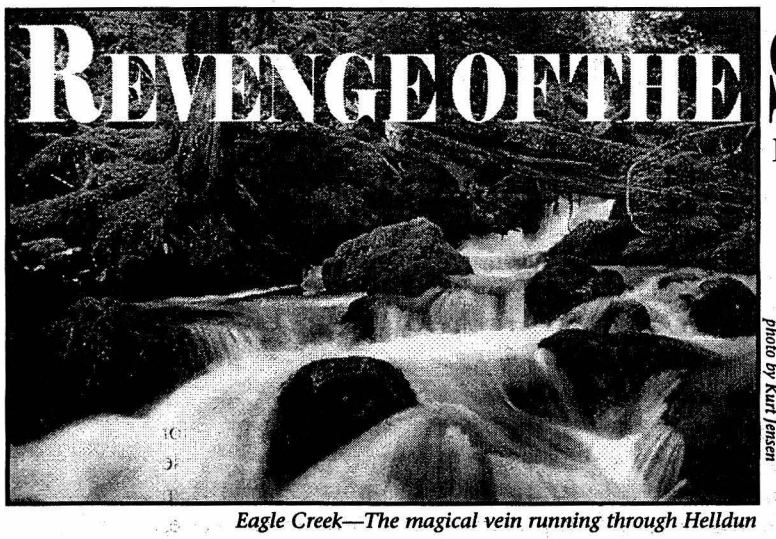


photo by Kurt Jensen

Eagle Creek—The magical vein running through Helldun

BY MOONSHINE

Remember Freddy Krueger? Never seemed to die, returned to haunt audiences in one awful reprise after another, that guy? Remember the Salvage Rider?

In 1995 and 1996 a number of timber sales being logged by Scott Timber Company in the Coast Range of Oregon were canceled when the marbled murrelet was listed as an endangered species. The infamous Salvage Rider mandated that these sales be replaced by new sales. The Middle Fork Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest is bearing the brunt of replacing the coast sales. Almost 40 million board feet, approximately 8,000 logging trucks worth, will be clearcut in prime spotted owl habitat in the Cascades to replace forests protected for the marbled murrelet.

One of the worst examples of this endangered species shell game can be found where Eagle Creek spills off the steep southern slope of Bunchgrass Ridge, 13 miles east of Oakridge, Oregon. Only one road and a few scattered clearcuts left over from the Reagan/Watt regime mar the emerald forest that stretches from the congressionally designated Waldo and Three Sisters Wildernesses to the 8,000 acre Cornpatch Roadless Area. This is the site of the Helldun timber sale—100 acres of clearcuts in the old-growth forests that link the Cornpatch with the wilderness to the east.

Eagle Creek's most famous feature is the Warner Creek burn (remember that one?), still a lightning rod of controversy over the "management" of our public lands. Three years ago, during the height of the Salvage Rider, the Forest Service tried to salvage-log the burn. It withdrew the plans after an 11-month blockade of Forest Service Road 2408 by the Cascadia Forest Defenders and Southern Willamette Earth First! Today, citizen-scientists are proposing that the burn and 40,000 acres surrounding it, including the area slated for logging as the Helldun sale, be protected as a Research Natural Area (RNA). This designation would preserve the unique ecological features of the area and allow for scientific research and the enjoyment of future generations.

The Warner Creek fire burnt out seven years ago, but the embers of controversy still smolder, waiting to burst into flame as they did three years ago. "Try and log Helldun and the Forest Service'll have a protest on their hands that'll make the Warner blockade look like your grandparent's garage sale," says one activist. The Forest Service has so far received over 500 letters demanding it withdraw plans to log Helldun and include the area in the RNA. Last year, activists erected a tripod at the Willamette National Forest office in Eugene. A recent banner hanging was preceded by a rowdy demonstration that saw the usual suspects turning out, vowing to block the road into Helldun just as they blocked the road into Warner Creek. "There's only one road in, and we'll be on it," said Mick Garvin, a veteran of the Warner campaign.

The bad guy in this latest installment of the Salvage Rider Horror Show (the "Revenge of the Salvage Rider") is named, well, we'll call him Bub (even though his real name is Allyn Ford). He owns Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) of Roseburg, Oregon, which owns Scott Timber, which is a sort of corporate cover for RFP and owns the rights to log Helldun and a bunch of other replacement volume sales. Still with me? Allyn, er, I mean, Bub gave up a bunch of skinny second-growth trees on the coast and is getting giant old growth—from six to nine feet in diameter, as much as 900 years old—in return. RFP and our local bunch of rowdies go way back. RFP has logged a number of controversial timber sales in Oregon and northern California, including Yellow Creek and Dillon Creek. One of Bub's thugs actually punched an activist a few years back. RFP is one of the largest privately held companies in the US. You can reach Allyn Ford at POB 1088, Roseburg, OR 97474; (541) 679-3311. Tell him Moonshine says hi.

The Forest Service has ignored public outrage over plans to log Helldun. On December 23, the regional forester denied administrative appeals of the Helldun sale and decided to release it to Scott Timber. Experts estimate that Helldun will provide almost three times the amount of timber that Scott is owed from Coast Range sales. And they'll get it at Salvage Rider prices, as low as $100 per thousand board feet. The Forest Service doesn't seem scared yet. But they will be. Freddy is back. And so are the Cascadians.

For more information contact the Helldun campaign at POB 11122, Eugene, OR 97440; jdj@efn.org.; www.efn.org/~bigfoot.

Tripods Block Capture Facility

continued from front page

Livestock interests irrationally fear that buffalo will spread the disease to cattle, despite the fact that there has never been a documented case of such a transmission. All pregnant females, regardless of whether they test positive for brucellosis, would be slaughtered. All buffalo testing positive would be slaughtered as well, including bulls and yearling calves, which pose virtually no risk of transmitting brucellosis. Of the 15 buffalo slaughtered this winter, 13 were bulls. The field test that the DOL uses to determine the fate of its captive bison is highly unreliable. Of the first eight buffalo sent to slaughter this year—all of which field-tested positive for brucellosis—only two were actually positive, according to the more accurate tissue test conducted at the slaughterhouse. The agencies claim that the operation of the capture facility will help with the "urgent need" to reduce bison mortality from brucellosis. However, in the winter of 1996-1997, these facilities sent hundreds of buffalo to slaughter.

The DOL has asked the United States Department of Agriculture to fund the costs of installing and operating the buffalo trap with taxpayers footing the bill of $500,000 a year for the next 10 years. All of this is justified in order to protect 170 cow-calf pairs that graze on three public allotments on Horse Butte and generate a mere $765 a year in grazing fees.

The US Forest Service has signed a special-use permit, meaning that the capture facility is exempt from laws governing interference with a nearby bald eagle nest. The DOL, however, has not signed the permit, fearing that it makes the agency liable for events "outside the scope of constructing and operating the facility"—like having to arrest activists and take down the tripods. In a blaring conflict of interest, DOL agents, trained to inspect cattle, have been conducting the required bald-eagle surveys. One of the DOL surveyors, observing an eagle, was overheard saying, "I think it is a male. I heard males are smaller than females."

The DOL's lawyers won't sign the permit until the Forest Service removes the liability language which holds the DOL responsible for arresting the protesters and removing the blockade. The Forest Service insists that Montana should bear the liability. "It is the state's project. It's their activity," said Olleke Rappe-Daniels, US Forest Service spokesperson. Until this legal battle is resolved, there will be no Horse Butte buffalo trap.

On the first day of the action a pregnant buffalo walked up and stood within 10 feet of the blockade, as if to give thanks for the action. The US Forest Service officials who showed up the next day weren't as thankful. They videotaped the tripods and told ground supporters that overnight camping is prohibited in the area. The activists pointed out that because they weren't sleeping at the blockade, they weren't violating day-use regulations. To date, no attempt has been made to remove the structures.

"We will be here to stand with these buffalo until they are free to live on their winter habitat without being chased, captured or killed. Until this happens, many of us feel in our hearts that nonviolent direct action is the only way to stop this senseless tragedy," said Michael Bowersox, Buffalo Field Campaign spokesperson and cook extraodinaire.

Come to Yellowstone and help us put an end to the DOL's days of harassing and killing buffalo. Food and lodging in our warm cabin are provided free to all volunteers. Contact the Buffalo Field Campaign (formerly Buffalo Nations) at POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; (406) 646-0070; fax 646-0071; buffalo@wildrockies.org; www.wildrockies.org/buffalo. Video footage is available upon request. Let Gov. Racicot know that the slaughter is unacceptable! Contact him at State Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59602-0801. Contact the DOL's acting director Marc Bridges at POB 202001, Helena, MT 59620-2001; (406) 444-2023.

Bare Bones

Ronald Reagan at Rushmore?

Mount Rushmore in South Dakota would be altered to add the face of a fifth president, Ronald Reagon, under a bill being readied by Matt Salmon (R-AZ). If enacted, the 40th president's likeness would be added to those of former presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Operation Jellystone Targets RTS

An anti-car group is being targeted by police who fear it plans to bring chaos to Britain's roads. Photographs of Reclaim The Streets (RTS) protesters have been circulated to every police station in Britain in a bid to identify ringleaders. Police chiefs believe the organization is plotting more protests aimed at bringing traffic to a standstill in major cities.

A special squad, code named Operation Jellystone, has been set up to monitor the group. The British equivalent of the FBI, the Special Branch, says, "The need for an enhancement in covert pro-active intelligence by police is clear."

The center of Birmingham was paralyzed last year when 4,000 RTS supporters blocked a 500-yard stretch of road for five hours. Police, some in riot gear, made 35 arrests. Still photos from a surveillance video of 30 demonstrators wanted for questioning over the "large-scale public disorder" have been published in the *Police Gazette*.

NREPA Pushes Forward in Congress

US Representatives Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) led a bi-partisan coalition of House members recently by introducing the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA). This sweeping legislation would extend official protection to more than 20-million acres of public land in parts of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington. These virgin forests have some of the last remaining elk herds and grizzlies in the nation.

Grassroots advocates in the Wild Rockies are gearing up for a major push for NREPA in the 106th Congress, focusing on securing hearings for the bill and obtaining more than 100 official sponsors. To become a part of this campaign or for more information on how to help, please contact Bob Clark, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, POB 8731, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 721-5420; bobclark@wildrockies.org; www.wildrockies.org/awr.

Clearcutting Ban for New Mexico

Under the New Mexico Forest Conservation Act now pending before the New Mexico legislature, clearcutting, shelterwood cutting and high grading would be banned, as well as logging and roadbuilding in riparian zones and on unstable soils.

The bill is timely because timber cutting has moved from federal forest lands to nonfederal lands in New Mexico. Slightly more than half of all forest lands in the state are privately owned, yet nearly five times the volume of trees were harvested from privately owned lands in 1997.

Microwaving the Planet

BY ARTHUR FIRSTENBERG

If plutonium were to be deliberately sprayed over every square inch of the Earth, there would be a revolution. Yet, in the last two years, with hardly anyone knowing or watching, an equivalent environmental problem has arisen. We're being covered with radiation, and almost no one has raised a voice, much less held a picket sign. Instead, we are paying for the privilege.

An enormous body of scientific literature says microwaves (high frequency radio waves) are dangerous to living things, and a growing number of people everywhere are already seriously ill from exposure to microwave radiation. But the telecommunications industry is placing microwave broadcast towers on every hill and valley it can get its hands on, and the United States Congress says we can't do a thing about it.

photo by Collette O'Connell

Rally against masts (microwave towers)—Dublin, Ireland, March 1998

The effects of this environmental assault—on people, farm animals, birds, bees, frogs and forests—have been catastrophic, but the cause of the catastrophe has been well-hidden. This form of pollution is more invisible than any other because a $100 billion industry wants it to be. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 contains the following sentence, which cellular providers parade in front of zoning boards and health departments all over the country, with threats of lawsuits if it is not obeyed:

"No state or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission's regulations concerning such emissions."

The "commission" referred to is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Unfortunately, the FCC is charged with promoting "new technologies" and "universal service," and its regulations do not recognize the possibility of injury at what it mistakenly calls "low levels" of radio frequency radiation. The position of the FCC and the industry is that microwave radiation which does not heat up the body more than one degree Celsius is entirely harmless.

In reality, there is no scientific evidence for the safety of wireless communications. Quite the contrary, the evidence for serious environmental harm, even at so-called "non-thermal" levels, runs into tens of thousands of documents and goes back over a century, since French scientist Arsene d' Arsonval pioneered the use of radio frequency radiation in medicine for physical therapy. The Soviets later coined the term "radio wave sickness" to describe an occupational disease among workers chronically exposed to low levels of radio frequency radiation and set their exposure standards accordingly.

In the 1960s, American researchers began to find damage to the heart, brain, nervous system, eyes and other organs even at microwave levels permissible in the Eastern Bloc. Back in 1968 biologist Allen Frey demonstrated that animals can hear microwaves, probably due to a slight heating of the brain, causing pressure waves that reach the inner ear. He even stopped frogs' hearts by carefully timing microwave pulses, at a dose more than 1,000 times lower than permitted today by the FCC.

The number of communication towers now being built runs into the hundreds of thousands, and they're not just for voice transmission. The growth of the Internet has created such an enormous demand for data transmission that fiber optic cable can't be laid fast enough; wireless transmission is required. Antennas are being mounted on apartment buildings, lamp posts, traffic lights, water towers and inside church steeples. Bill Gates and Craig McGaw's Teledesic Corporation even plans to launch 300 satellites into low orbit in the very near future in order to speed up global Internet service and increase its capacity.

All this comes at a cost, not only to human health but to every living thing on this planet. In agreement with the research on pulsed microwaves, all of the new digital (pulsed) technologies are proving much more dangerous than analog systems. Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control show an immediate 10 to 25 percent increase in human mortality, lasting eight to 10 weeks, in most cities when they receive personal communication service for the first time. The symptoms reported from all over the world are identical to the occupational disease the Russians called radio wave sickness. Nowadays it has a new name, electrical sensitivity, and so many are afflicted that there are large support groups in many countries. Symptoms include eye pain, dry lips, increased blood pressure, pressure or pain in the chest, insomnia, dizziness, headaches, memory loss, pain in the legs or feet, nosebleeds, dehydration and a flu that won't go away.

Kathy Hawk's *Case Study In the Heartland* documents the terrible effects cellular towers are having on farm animals and wildlife. Cows living near towers are being born with severe deformities. Several studies have shown that bird feathers are fine microwave antennas, and that birds will collapse in distress when forced to stay in microwave fields. Reports confirm that birds will vacate a neighborhood when a cellular tower is built. Those that remain and nest lay eggs that never hatch.

With tall towers sprouting up every few miles throughout the world, even in national parks, where will the wildlife go? In January 1998, nearly 10,000 birds, mostly Lapland Longspurs, were so disoriented near a 420-foot tower in Kansas that they flew full force into the ground and impaled themselves on wheat stubble.

No public agency, however, is monitoring this 1,000-fold increase in radiation levels. In July 1996, the Cellular Phone Task Force formed as an emergency response to these circumstances. It is made up of unpaid volunteers who struggle to compile information and keep up with the flood of calls for help. Presently the Cellular Phone Task Force, along with other citizens groups and the Communications Workers of America, has filed a suit against the FCC and the United States of America. The lawsuit, which will be heard April 15 in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City, aims to invalidate FCC rules about the safety of wireless technology and to gain protection against radio frequency radiation.

Most of the local resistance to cellular towers in the US has been in the form of temporary siting moratoria or legal battles over nonenvironmental issues. There is legislation pending in Congress that would repeal the preemptive language of the Telecommunications Act, but these bills have received little support. Elsewhere, there are lawsuits pending in Ireland and England based on health concerns. In Australia, the Democrats have taken this on as an environmental issue. And, again in Ireland, public protests have stopped construction of many cellular towers. Clearly the time for further action has come.

For more information contact Arthur Firstenberg, Cellular Phone Taskforce, POB 100404, Brooklyn, NY 11210; (718) 434-4499.

Mining the Moon and Mars

BY BRUCE GAGNON

What is truly behind the growing pressure to explore, colonize and exploit the moon and Mars?

There is gold in them there hills!

NASA has found aluminum, titanium, iron, magnesium and helium 3 on the moon. On Mars they have found magnesium, cobalt, phosphorus and more. On asteroids, gold has been discovered.

NASA, the US weapons industry, the Department of Energy's weapons laboratories and academia are all working hard to convince the American people and Congress to provide greater research and development funding for this new exploitation of space while also minimizing regulation and control of such plans.

In the words of Declan O'Donnell, a director of the United Societies in Space, "We are the fifth force in nature. Our society turned loose in the universe will represent a new natural force. Our mansions can be built with a new source of financing, priming the pump for private enterprise."

The vision is to put mining colonies on the moon and Mars shortly after the turn of the century. The surface of the moon has already been entirely mapped by the Clemintine mission, a joint NASA/Pentagon mission used to test Star Wars sensors. Mars mapping and soil identification are now underway. Mining colonies would be powered by nuclear reactors now being developed by the Department of Energy's national labs and weapons contractors, the same folks that brought us the nuclear arms race.

According to Marshall Savage, the founder of the First Millennial Foundation, "We really can't mess up the moon, either by mining it or building nuclear powered plants. We can ruthlessly strip mine the surface of the moon for centuries, and it will be hard to tell we've even been there. There is no reason why we cannot build nuclear power plants on the moon's surface with impunity. Equipped with limitless nuclear, the lunar civilization will be capable of prodigious rates of economic growth."

As NASA prepares to send several more missions to Mars, it's also pondering another environmental dilemma—space bugs. When Columbus and the Spaniards began to explore the Americas, they brought the smallpox virus that killed thousands of indigenous peoples. If all goes as planned, NASA hopes to launch the Mars Sample Return Mission in 2003. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention worry that NASA currently has no process in place to protect Earth's inhabitants from "pathogenic viruses or bacteria" upon the return of the missions.

One of the current obstacles to US corporate plans for economic exploitation of the moon and Mars is the existence of United Nations laws like the Moon Treaty. Much of the Moon Treaty reiterates earlier and internationally accepted "space law," particularly the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. In Article 11 of that treaty, the UN states that "the moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind." Efforts are now underway to undermine and circumvent these existing treaties.

The Pentagon, through the Colorado-based US Space Command, is also working hard to ensure that the space corridor will remain open and free for these private corporate interests. Weapons systems such as nuclear powered lasers and anti-satellite weapons are now being funded, researched and tested. In the Space Command's document, Vision for 2020, it says, "The control of space will encompass protecting US military, civil and commercial investments in space."

We are now poised to take the bad seed of greed, environmental exploitation and war into space. Having shown such enormous disregard for our own planet, these so-called visionaries and explorers are now ready to rape and pillage the heavens. Countless launches of nuclear materials will seriously jeopardize life on Earth. Returning potentially bacteria-laden space materials back to Earth, without any real plans for containment and monitoring, could create new epidemics. And the possibility of an expanding nuclear-based arms race in space will certainly have serious ecological ramifications.

Now is the time for all activists to begin to learn more about these issues and organize to prevent this madness. An international debate must be started about just what we will carry as we explore space.

For more information contact the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, POB 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 337-9274; globenet@afn.org.

Toxic Bugs & Tumbleweeds:
Hanford's Nightmare

BY JOHN REESE

Early last year unexplained hotspots were detected at the Hanford nuclear reservation in central Washington, and soon after insects there were found to be highly radioactive. Researchers aren't sure precisely how the insects have become contaminated or how far they might have spread the radiation, but it appears that the bugs have come in contact with unsecured areas of radioactive waste at the Hanford site, most likely a leaking storage facility.

In addition to radioactive ants, flies and gnats, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of radioactive tumbleweeds found blowing around Hanford. The Department of Energy (DOE) found 20 contaminated tumbleweeds in the first six months of 1998. With roots that can stretch 15 feet into the soil, the weeds suck up contaminated ground water and spread radioactivity when the wind blows away the top of the plant. Leaves from mulberry trees along the Columbia River have been found to have concentrations of strontium 90 that are 4,000 times the drinking water standard.

Hanford is an environmental nightmare with a serious nuclear hangover. It is a former plutonium production site and a defunct bomb factory with millions of gallons of radioactive waste stored in leaky underground storage tanks and other facilities. As if to prove its lunacy, the government continues to bring nuclear wastes to Hanford for disposal.

In 1987, the DOE made a commitment to stop discharging contaminants into the soil by June 1995 and focus on cleanup—the largest waste cleanup ever undertaken. But the DOE is hardly taking cleanup seriously. Hanford has an annual budget of $1.4 billion, but it is estimated that cleanup costs may soar as high as $300 billion in an operation that could drag out over the next 75 to 100 years. So far about $15 billion has been spent to deal with the contamination.

Hanford is located in the Columbia Basin near Richland, Washington. The area contains vast tracts of the shrub steppe ecosystem. It is a complete, functioning ecosystem distinguished by sand dunes and dramatic bluffs with many endemic species of plants. The Columbia River or *Nchi-wana*, the Big River, as some Native American tribes call it, has been classified as the most endangered river in the US. The sacred grounds of nearby Gable Mountain continue to be a place of spiritual growth and reflection for area tribes. The Columbia River remains one of the world's most productive salmon fisheries in spite of radioactive ground water seeping into the river, contaminating salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and other aquatic wildlife.

Hanford Engineer Works was begun by the Manhattan District of the Army Corps of Engineers and the DuPont Corporation in March 1943 and was one of the primary arsenals of nuclear defense production for nearly 50 years. The three original reactors produced the plutonium used in the world's first, third, fourth and fifth atomic explosions. Approximately 53 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium were produced at Hanford between 1944 and 1989. In total, the original Hanford site and its buffer zones occupied 640 square miles. After World War II ended, area residents were disappointed to learn that the fertile lands would be withheld from agricultural production for the foreseeable future. At a meeting in the spring of 1947 with the Atomic Energy Commission (precursor of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission), President Truman ordered a large expansion of the Hanford site for weapons production facilities. Access was denied to Native Americans who had historically used the lands for hunting, food gathering and religious purposes.

As early as 1948, when site production activities expanded during the early years of the Cold War, troubling data emerged from Hanford's environmental monitoring program. Water samples collected from the Columbia River and from fish, plankton, vegetation, air, land-based wildlife and domestic animals indicated various radioactive substances had entered the ecosystem.

The most toxic waste, much of it from reprocessing operations, is stored in 177 large underground tanks near the center of the site. The tanks currently contain about 57-million gallons of liquid waste. Sixty-eight of the older tanks are either known or suspected leakers. They are assumed to have leaked a total of about 15-million gallons of contaminated liquid into the ground. Contractors have added chemicals to the tanks in an attempt to "neutralize" the contents, creating a more dangerous toxic soup. What's more, over 440-billion gallons of radioactive and chemical waste have been discharged into the soil at the Hanford site, and hundreds of billions of gallons of waste water have been discharged directly into the river.

Over 200 square miles surrounding Hanford have ground water contaminated with radioactive tritium at levels 168 times the drinking water standard. This water is entering the Columbia River in vast plumes, but there is currently no regular water quality testing. Since Fluor Daniel Hanford took over as the contractor, the number of accidents, explosions, radioactive releases and other failures at the nation's largest and potentially most dangerous nuclear repository has painted a picture of incompetence, mismanagement and negligence.

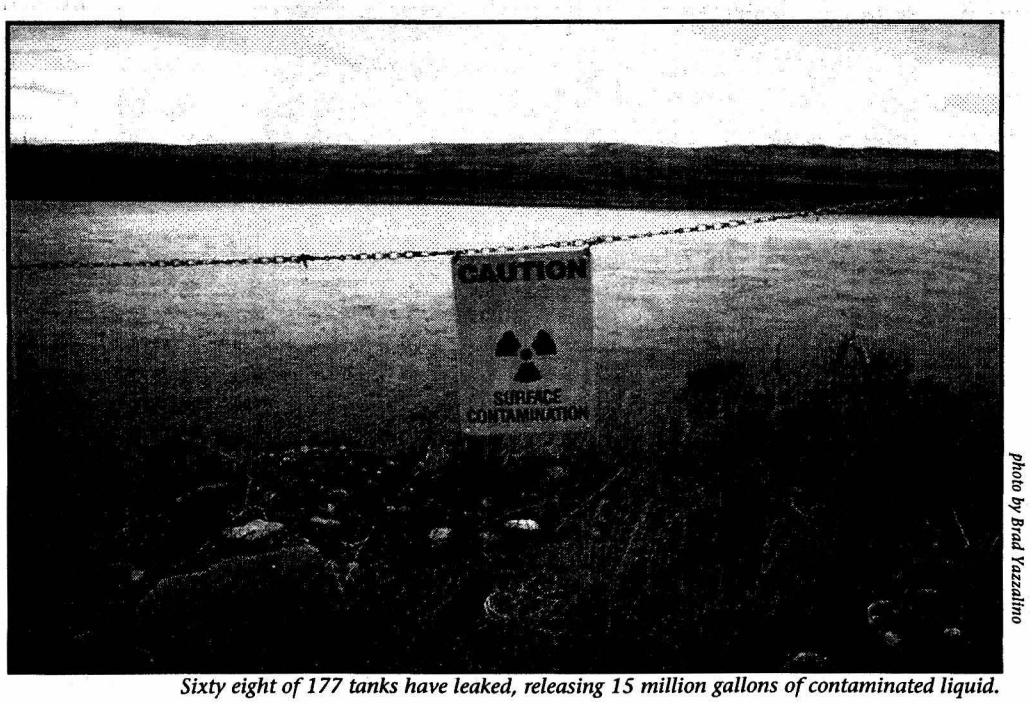


photo by Brad Yazzalino

Sixty eight of 177 tanks have leaked, releasing 15 million gallons of contaminated liquid.

As an indicator of the health of this system, humans have also been assessed. On February 4, the findings of an $18 million Hanford Thyroid Study by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) was announced. According to the 10-year study, there is no link between Cold War era radiation releases and the rate of thyroid disease among people living downwind. However, Greg DeBruler with Columbia River United found a very high rate of thyroid disease. Over 2,000 cases were found in the 3,400 people in the study, and yet the FHCRC concluded this was not related to activities at Hanford.

Last year when the DOE wanted to restart tritium production (tritium heightens the explosive force of nuclear warheads) at Hanford over 100 protesters turned out in force at the hearings. With sirens blaring, a nuclear family and a dozen EF!ers held a "die in" at two of the hearings, demanding that cleaning up the environmental catastrophe at Hanford have priority over bomb making and bringing in 50 tons of plutonium. Just before the year's end, DOE Secretary Bill Richardson announced a decision to site production of tritium at a Tennessee Valley Authority facility in Eastern Tennessee. That's bad news for Tennessee, of course, but a blessed relief for the beleaguered environment out at Hanford.

The DOE is not interested in cleanup; it just wants enough money coming in to keep Hanford's bomb-building infrastructure in place. Closing down Hanford and ending the toxic industry of making bombs is a good reason for environmentalists and anti-war activists to work together. If we can stop weapons production and expedite cleanup, the slow death of the Columbia Basin shrub steppe ecosystem and the Columbia River can be halted.

For more information or to get involved with the Hanford campaign, contact Heart of America NW, 1305 4th Ave. #208, Seattle, WA 98102; 1-800-24-CLEAN or Hanford Watch, 2285 SE Cypress, Portland, OR 97214; (503) 232-0848; paigekngt@juno.com.

BARE BONES

Navajo Leader Orders Zoo Animals Released

The outgoing Navajo Nation president, Milton Bluehouse, has ordered the tribal zoo closed and most of its animals released on the advice of a group of medicine men. "Spiritually, keeping these animals caged is inhibitive in our lives because some of these animals we mention in our songs and prayers. Once they are free in nature, then we should collectively soar like eagles." Bluehouse said he did not worry that many of the animals, born at the zoo and raised in captivity, might die after release in the wild. "Let nature take care of itself, take its own course," he said.

Thirty indigenous animals will be set free somewhere within the 26,000-square-mile Navajo reservation in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Many have been cared for by humans since birth and face certain death in the wild. Lolene Hathaway, director of the Navajo Nation Zoo, is concerned about releasing three adult cougars that are habituated to people. No rehabilitation program is in place to assist the animals that will be released.

Exotic Pests Allowed into the US

On January 25, a US federal judge in Oakland, California, ruled that current levels of protection for American forests from infestation by exotic species are acceptable, despite a presidential executive order to improve safeguards. The judge lifted an injunction that banned new permits for raw wood imports into the US because of the risks of invasion by foreign pests and pathogens. Meanwhile, the US has imposed a ban on wood packaging imports from China due to high rates of invasion by the Asian long-horned beetle.

Scientists have determined that invasive exotic species threaten half the imperiled species in the US. Exotic species have virtually eliminated four species of trees. Beginning immediately, the USDA can resume issuing permits for corporations to import unprocessed and untreated wood products from such major forest product producers as Siberia, New Zealand, China and Chile. Environmental groups are calling on the Clinton administration to follow through with the executive order quickly and implement stronger controls to fight invasions by exotic species.

The Dead Zone

A 7,000-square-mile "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico caused by fertilizer runoff is getting larger. Every spring and summer, nitrogen from agricultural fertilizer washes down the Mississippi River and into the northern Gulf of Mexico. The nutrient-rich waters trigger a bloom of algae, which depletes oxygen in the water. Most shrimp and fish escape to healthier waters, but bottom dwellers such as worms, starfish and some single-celled animals are killed. At the same time, some microbes that prefer low oxygen explode, forming a floating, white, cotton-like mass. The average size of the dead zone has doubled since 1992 and now persists from May until October. Some of the nitrogen dumped into the gulf comes from natural sources, cities and industry, but agriculture uses 6.5 million metric tons of nitrogen a year.

BARE BONES

Nuke Saboteurs Sentenced

On August 6, 1998, the 53rd anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, Daniel Sicken and Sachio Ko-Yin entered a Minuteman III missile silo in Weld County, Colorado. They unfurled a banner, painted a mural on the underground silo's concrete cap, hammered on the tracks and other components of the silo, and then waited patiently until they were apprehended by the Air Force. This act of beating swords into plowshares is one of over 60 similar Plowshares actions that have occurred since 1980.

The two activists, who represented themselves in a three-day jury trial in November 1998, were found guilty of sabotage, conspiracy and destruction of government property. The maximum penalty for the crimes was 20 years and a half million dollars in fines. Before sentencing the two, District Judge Walker Miller observed that the federal sentencing guidelines he is allowed to impose fail to recognize "gradations" in the act of sabotage. "There is sabotage, and then there's sabotage. They didn't put a bomb in a bomber," Judge Miller said.

Daniel was sentenced to 41 months, and Sachio to 30 months, which is less than the recommended 63 to 97 months. The court imposed standard conditions for the mandatory payment of restitution and awarded damages in the amount of $21,299.40.

Write to Oliver Sachio Coe, 28361-013 and Daniel Sicken, 28360-013, Unit A, Federal Detention Center, 9595 West Quincy Ave., Littleton, CO 80123. For information contact Bill Sulzman, POB 915, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (719) 389-0644; bsulzman@juno.com.

Fur Trade Fights Itself

In a move that has sparked a bitter internal battle within the fur trade, Britain's fur farmers have decided not to oppose a ban on their industry. Infighting is likely to ensure a bill outlawing fur farming will become law. The British Fur Trade Association, which includes fur processors, traders and manufacturers, is said to be furious about the farmers' apparent change of heart. Maria Eagle, who is introducing the bill, said, "One way we can judge our society is by how we treat other creatures. I believe the way in which we treat wild animals, 'farmed' for their fur, is a national disgrace. The trade has declined in Britain—it is about time it stopped."

Songbirds Forget Songs

England's songbirds are forgetting how to sing, according to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, which blames the deteriorating trait on traffic noise that interferes with the birds' ability to hear each other. Populations of some species, including finches, warblers and orioles, have drastically declined because the birds no longer learn mating calls. Instead of a melodious song, all that some birds can manage to emit is a tweet.

Roadless Program Alert

US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck announced the long-awaited ban on road construction in roadless areas on February 11. Unfortunately, the 18-month ban excludes roadless areas in 24 national forests and makes no provisions for halting resource extractive activities such as logging, mining, grazing and motorized recreation in any area. At this point in time, the threats to roadless areas continue. For information contact Wildlands CPR, POB 7516 Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 543-9551; WildlandsCPR@wildrockies.org; www.wildrockies.org/WildCPR/.

Why Fix the Millennium Bug?

BY MARTIN KAUFMAN

The coming "Millennium Bug," which will cause computers to mistake the year 2000 for 1900, has been described as a catastrophe in the making. Law firms and insurance companies say it will result in an astonishing one trillion dollars worth of litigation in the US. Fixing government computers alone will cost taxpayers another $25 billion. The final expense will probably add up to hundreds of trillions internationally, and so government and industry have declared war on the millennium bug.

Sigh. Once again, humans are missing the point.

The bug is, in fact, a sign, probably sent by Jesus, or Buddha, or Elvis, or the Hale-Bopp people. Listen to the bug and you'll hear it saying, "Come, heedless, vain humans, back with me to the only time in history that made any sense."

1900.

Bear with me here. What if, instead of fixing the bug, we diverted those trillions of dollars to the task of demolishing modern civilization and reconstructing it in the image of the year 1900? Then the computers wouldn't need to be reprogrammed. What's more, there would be major benefits for all. Think of the jobs that would be created doing things like tearing up parking lots and turning them back into paradises. Many would relish a job bulldozing Wal-Marts and rebuilding the friendly mom and pop stores of yesteryear.

People now stuck in office jobs would enjoy being part of a vigorous TV-smashing crew. Legions of idle folks would find meaningful work demolishing the highways and turning them back into pleasant dirt roads or Indian trails. Others could tackle the task of transforming the nation's airports into desperately needed wetlands for wildlife. And millions could work on the railroads, to bring that preferred mode of travel back to the high standards it had in 1900, before the conspiracy began to make people dependent on cars.

Reducing the government to its 1900 size would be tough manual labor, but many would gladly pitch in and wield a sledge hammer. And thousands of new law enforcement jobs would be created for the task of imprisoning our leaders, who, through their venality and stupidity, have brought us to the state where we require the millennium bug's guidance.

We could restore our farmlands to their 1900 condition, before humans depleted them of natural nutrients and saturated them with chemicals. We could build huge bonfires to destroy the genetically engineered seeds that industry and government are trying to foist on us, and replace them with heirloom seeds that grow the kind of juicy vegetables your grandpappy told you about.

We could clean up our water and air, shut down those nuclear-reactors-from-hell and transport the waste to the front lawns of the nuclear industry barons' mansions. At their expense, of course.

Manuals describing how to make automated teller machines, all-terrain vehicles and other horrors would be composted and turned into useful fertilizer. Satellite, digital and cellular communications would give way to those perfectly serviceable old crank telephones so we could have wonderfully eccentric busybody switchboard operators listening in on our calls instead of the FBI. This would also eliminate those satanic voice menu systems!

Life would be sweet and simple and relaxed. Neighbors would know and care about one another. The world would once again be covered with dark, mysterious forests and fields filled with flowers and honeybees. You could experience the deliciousness of getting lost in the wilderness and not stumble upon a Mafia-made superhighway in your meanderings.

We'd make a few improvements to the old 1900, of course. Women would not only vote, they would rule the world. Black and indigenous people would be encouraged to use their superior wisdom to keep the European "conquer and expand" imbecility suppressed forever. Horse-drawn carriages would be outlawed as the slave labor they are, and everyone would ride a bike. The KKK would have to be dealt with, as would certain unnamed robber barons who would want to return us to the appalling conditions of today.

But, those minor details aside, it would still be 1900. People would go for promenades in their Sunday best and barbershop quartets would sing "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair" or "Strawberry Blonde" or some other tuneful song about hair fetishes. Schools would teach reasoning and literacy instead of memorization and obedience. Children could demonstrate their new sophistication by performing amateur Gilbert and Sullivan shows to everyone's delight.

And, after thanking the millennium bug for showing us the way, we would, as a final act, destroy it and all the computers that house it, and replace them with those marvelous quaint old manual typewriters.

The Millennium Bug is trying to tell us something. Are we wise enough to listen?

Martin Kaufman's computer is for sale. Contact him at martinveg@bigfoot.com.

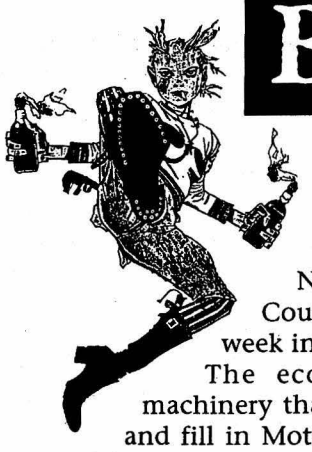
McDonald's Bites the Big One

Experts are warning of a new and deadly threat to our beleaguered civilization: the 100GB Bug. As most people know, McDonald's signs show the number of hamburgers the giant chain has sold. That number now stands at 99 billion burgers, or 99 gigaburgers (GB). Within months, or even weeks, that number will roll over to 100GB. McDonald's signs, however, were designed years ago when the prospect of selling one hundred billion hamburgers seemed unthinkably remote. So the signs have only two decimal places.

This means that, after the sale of the 100 billionth burger, McDonald's signs will read "00 Billion Burgers Sold." This, experts predict, will convince the public that, in over 30 years, no McDonald's hamburgers have ever in fact been sold, causing a complete collapse of consumer confidence in McDonald's products. The ensuing catastrophic drop in sales is almost certain to force the already-troubled company into bankruptcy. This, in turn, will push the teetering American economy over the brink, which will finally complete the total devastation of the global economy, ending civilization as we know it and forcing us all to live off of beetles.

"The people who know—the sign-makers—are really scared of 100GB," one expert said. "I don't know about you, but I'm digging up a copy of *The Field Guide to North American Insects* and heading for the hills."

EARTH NIGHT NEWS



The Earth Liberation Front's New York brigade has claimed responsibility for an earth night raid in defense of the Nyack wetlands in Rockland County, New York, during the last week in January.

The ecowarriors sabotaged heavy machinery that was destined to scrape away and fill in Mother Earth's natural curves so a series of $100,000-plus homes could be erected on a site just northwest of New York City.

The brigade also removed the survey markers that were placed in advance of this latest encroachment into one of the last bastions of wilderness remaining within a 20-mile radius of NYC.

The brigade's communiqué said, "These wetlands are an important element of the regional ecosystem and deserve our defense by any means necessary! We also act in solidarity with a local community which opposes the eradication of open spaces... We do not view the wage laborers of this site as the enemy... They are being economically coerced into this destruction... The enemy is the wealthy class who profits from the sweat of the worker, the liquidation of community power and the destruction of the environment."

The communiqué further suggested that burning down malls, empowering communities, defending our environment and smashing the state are good ideas.

Mrs. Claws on Vail

continued from front page

The EF! movement has never made that decision. And even if we had, what gives us the right to decide what other groups can and cannot do? Would EF!ers listen if the Sierra Club set down rules for when CD is permissible? In the past CD campaigns have occasionally shared the same time and space as acts of sabotage. As the ecological crisis intensifies, sabotage will be more prevalent. Denunciations serve no good. If there was a single, unbeatable strategy, wouldn't we be winning by now? Wouldn't the redwoods be saved by now?

4. The fires ruined the opportunity for CD

The ELF action caused a massive influx of cops from every agency as if it was a fire sale at a donut factory. As a result, AFR lost the element of surprise, making some blockade techniques difficult or impossible. Plans had to be adjusted, but a large police presence does not preclude backcountry actions. The entire campaign at Sugarloaf in Southern Oregon, for example, was carried out with cops as thick as flies in a barnyard. Not only did US Forest Service law enforcement officers patrol the woods in camouflage, but some patiently waited in ambush behind trees. Activists at other campaigns have been chased by dogs and helicopters. But we always have the advantage of being more fleet of foot, more comfortable in the woods and a hell of a lot more unpredictable than the cops.

Even if direct action at Vail's construction site seemed unfeasible at the time, this Medusa-like company offered many other opportunities for CD. To shy away from CD because it might antagonize our neighbors or because the setting is unfriendly is to miss the whole point of civil disobedience. (Please recall the conditions facing civil rights protesters in the South.) Paradigm shifts don't happen without intense controversy.

5. Local support for the roadless area was lost

This criticism is valid. But at this stage of the battle, one must ask, so what? Environmentalists had already lost in the only venue where local opinions count, the vote by the county commissioners. If Vail Associates was at all concerned about local opposition, it wouldn't have pushed the project ahead so aggressively. Vail Associates cares only about making money. Because environmentalists lost in the legal and political arenas, the economic arena is where the battle must now be fought. Many local residents, especially small business owners, would have eventually defected anyway once they realized that the only way to pressure Vail is through economics. Civil disobedience is designed to embarrass, to sour public relations, to turn away customers. Yet organizers have been reluctant to initiate a full-scale boycott. This illustrates the shortcomings of a strategy that views local support as being all-important. ("If you call yourself a conservationist and you don't have people mad at you, then you're not doing you're job."—Helen Caldicott)

6. The ELF attack should've occurred elsewhere on the mountain

The ELF attacked targets that clearly inflicted the maximum economic damage. The attack at the heart of Vail Associates' operations made it impossible for anyone to visit the ski resort without knowing about the controversy. The author of "Thoughtful Radicalism Revisited" in the last issue of the *Journal* argues that it would've been more appropriate to monkeywrench bulldozers in the project area. The author fails to see that both media and tourists would have overlooked a few decommissioned bulldozers. Such an action would have been misdirected at a third-party, small-time contractor and would've truly interfered with AFR's plans. Instead, the fires of October 18 kept both a physical and a strategic distance from AFR's sphere of activity.

7. The ELF action didn't stop the logging so it was ineffective and unjustified

This is a bizarre assessment coming from forest activists. When treesits, tripods and barrel lockdowns are removed and the cutting of trees commences, do we condemn those protesters who put their necks on the line? Blockade techniques, no matter how extravagant, can only forestall logging for a matter of hours once the police move in. The resumption of logging does not mean failure. The effectiveness of CD is measured by its ability to (1) draw attention to the issue, (2) interfere with the orderly workings of the machine and (3) raise the overall cost of doing business. This is equally true for sabotage. The Vail fires were remarkably effective when assessed according to these criteria. Overnight, people across the country learned about the imperiled lynx, that the ski industry is not as benign as they previously thought and that Vail Associates is up to no good. The nationwide media coverage was especially fortuitous considering that Vail Associates' customer base extends to the East Coast. If you still wish to cast negative judgment on the fires, think about this: We will never know how Vail Associates and its customers would've responded if local environmentalists had kept the message focused on the lynx and the Two Elk Roadless Area during the media circus that ensued. Vail Associates would have felt much greater pressure if spokespeople from the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and AFR had stuck to the issue instead of playing the power-politics game of condemning another group to make their own group more respectable. Furthermore, these groups squandered a golden opportunity by not being proactive and using all this media attention to call for a boycott of Vail Associates.

8. The ELF put more visible activists at risk

The ELF did no such thing. We legitimize government repression and abuse of power by thinking in these terms. It is the government that uses grand juries and federal agents to harass and intimidate. The government basically sends the message, "Nobody step out of line or we're going to hurt innocent people." This is terrorism by the state. Grand juries in their political incarnation are the kinder, gentler equivalent of random police beatings or government death squads. The severity is different, but the purpose is the same: to instill fear and mistrust and to disrupt all forms of resistance. We must never accept the myth that we are responsible for "bringing down" repression upon ourselves or others.

9. Arson is dangerous

ALF literature stresses the importance of searching buildings for animals and humans prior to setting fires. The ELF presumably shares this concern. The ELF activists discovered Neil Sebso, a hunter, sleeping inside the restroom. This was the only structure in the area that was not burned down. Snow on the ground, a lack of winds and the pernicious practice of removing trees in ski areas ensured that the fires did not spread. If nobody is inside a burning building, nobody can get hurt. Firefighters can easily differentiate an arson fire from an accidental fire and as a rule will not enter a structure to fight an arson fire. The risk to firefighters is negligible. There is a greater chance of injury when police officers have to carry limp protesters.

10. Property destruction is violent

Discussions about violence must encompass scale. Such everyday actions as using profanity and raising one's voice can be considered "violent" on some level. But this is not the same as institutional violence where animals are confined to cages for their entire lives, where people are homeless while others build mansions and where corporations are allowed to decimate entire species for profit. Against this backdrop, property destruction is just and entirely nonviolent. To argue otherwise is to belittle the very real suffering inflicted daily by institutional violence. From the very beginning EF! was different from other environmental groups because property destruction was accepted as an important tool in the toolbox. In so doing, EF! enlarged the debate. Not everyone in EF! chooses to use this tool, but those who condemn monkeywrenching are in the wrong movement.

11. The ELF took credit for the fires lit by someone else

A little investigative journalism easily dispels this myth. The media reported eight fires. The ELF communiqué was more specific, claiming five buildings and four lifts were "reduced to ashes." This information was correct, was not in any news stories and could only have come from first hand knowledge. (The control booth for one lift adjoined the first aid hut—both were destroyed in a single blaze.) The ELF statement was sent anonymously through email. All the websites that perform this service use a random but significant time delay to maintain anonymity. This means the ELF statement was mailed as much as 48 hours earlier than it was received, possibly before any news stories were even printed. A delay in the communiqué is consistent with other North American ELF actions and is undoubtedly the result of security precautions.

12. The FBI set the fires and sent the communiqué

Some people have been watching too many X-Files episodes. It's ludicrous to think the FBI would do $12 million worth of damage to a private company. And this is not just any company, but the most prominent one in the ski industry, in the center of a state that defines its identity around skiing. And for what purpose? To discredit a small group of environmentalists who have yet to "win" anything? Is the FBI also behind the other ELF actions? In less than two years there have been at least four other arson attacks claimed by ELF in the western US. All resulted in complete destruction of the targets.

As you can see, there is a lot of elfin' magic afoot on this continent. You can blame the FBI if you like or you can blame the Brits for letting it escape from the Old Country, but Earth First! had best get used to the secretive, mischievous, no compromise ways of the elves.

Frontlines

Swimmers Disarm Sub

In mid-February, two peace activists from the Aldermaston Women's Group disarmed a new British Trident submarine to prevent it from leaving its dock. The women swam 300 metres in near freezing conditions in the dark to the Vickers dockyard at Barrow, England, to reach the *HMS Vengeance*. Armed with hammers, chisels, crowbars, screwdrivers and paint. The women then climbed around the submarine and dismantled radio equipment used to launch nuclear weapons.

This is the second disarmament action at Barrow since August 1998 and the third swimming action in the UK. The women hold that there is an imminent threat of a nuclear conflict and that they had no alternative but to prevent a new vehicle for these weapons of mass destruction from being tested. They felt immediate direct action was necessary. Both were arrested and are being held in police custody. Rachel Wenham, one of the peace activists arrested, stated, "As a citizen of the world, I have upheld the Nuremberg Principles in acting to prevent the crime of mass murder from being threatened and committed." A single Trident warhead is eight times more powerful than ones detonated over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Action to End Vivisection

A coalition of activists from Big Woods EF! and Direct Action for Animals (DA4A), a new animal liberation group based in Minneapolis, staged a series of actions against vivisection during the week of February 15-22. Students and others held five days of sidewalk vigils outside Moos Tower on the University of Minnesota campus, gathering signatures for a petition to end the primate research conducted inside.

Later in the week, six activists occupied the office of vivisectionist Marilyn Carroll, forming two kryptonite octopi by locking themselves to one another with bike locks. The following day a climber repelled off the 20-story building, trailing a banner that read, "Stop Primate Research." Although police and vivisectionists almost reached through windows to sever the banner and confiscate the climber's water supply and radio, he pledged to remain until a list of demands was met, including the implementation of a plan to phase out vivisection and dissection by 2001. Also on DA4A's list of demands was a call for any university vivisectionist to publicly debate former animal researcher and current anti-vivisection activist Dr. Ray Greek. None accepted the challenge.

Olympians Shit on Shell

On January 25, a group of concerned citizens occupied a Shell service station in Olympia, Washington. After four people climbed onto the roof and deployed banners, they were promptly joined by marchers who began distributing Shell boycott literature to potential customers. After the climbers refused police requests to come down, a fire truck was summoned and the four were taken into custody.

The occupation was a response to the emergency situation unfolding in the Niger River Delta. Presently 10-15,000 soldiers are occupying the delta, sent by Nigeria's military government at the urging of Shell and other oil companies financially invested in the region. Peaceful protests by the local inhabitants, decrying the theft of their lands and subsequent ecological devastation, have been brutally repressed. Troops have opened fire on crowds of unarmed civilians.

Sunning and Strategizing in Sonora, Mexico

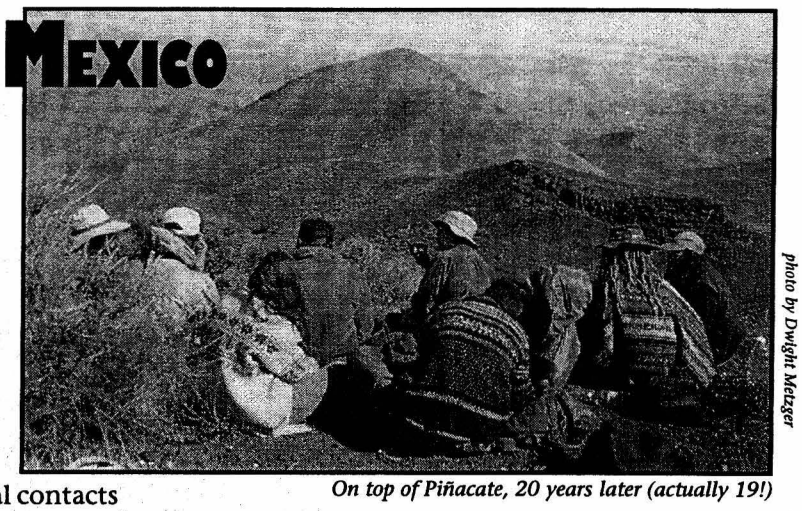


photo by Dwight Metzger

On top of Piñacate, 20 years later (actually 19!)

This year's EF! Organizers Conference and Winter Fiesta took place on the beach along the upper Gulf of California near Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. The weather was great with warm, breezy, sunny days and cool clear nights.

Before the conference began, a hike to commemorate the 19th anniversary of Earth First! took place at the Piñacate biosphere reserve, just south of the boarder. The desert enthusiasts trekked about the maroon lava flows, explored dark caves and otherwise frolicked in the sun-baked ancient Sonoran ecosystem. During the hike up El Piñacate, some people were attacked by cholla cacti, but 15 of us gathered on the rounded rocky summit nonetheless, looking across at our friends perched on the false summit (just like Dave and the boys on the day Earth First! was founded).

The conference began with a welcome, finalization of the agenda and many announcements about current EF! campaigns nationwide.

There were discussions of big events and issues that had taken place in the past year: the Vail fire, media, long-term strategy, safety, infiltration, the next Round River Rendezvous (probably in the Gila Mountains of New Mexico, June 21-28), the *EF! Journal* and the Organizers Conference structure. Workshops included: Y2K, pepper spray counter strategies, urban activism, genetics, encryption and security.

EF!'s media response to national and international events such as Gypsy's killing and Vail was discussed in detail. The discussion of Gypsy began with a moment of silence and recognition. The heart of the discussion was that Gypsy's murder was by no means an isolated incident. Violence against forest activists is on the rise.

The *Earth First! Journal* staff gave a presentation and introduced the new members of the collective. There is a color merchandise catalog coming out soon, and a subscription boosting program is underway. There was mention of dividing the *Journal* into two different publications. One would be an Earth First! action newsletter and, the *Journal* would exclusively become an outreach tool. The web page has been improved and is getting an increasing number of viewers. The *Journal* staff encouraged everyone to submit articles and art work.

A subgroup worked on national and bioregional media ideas over the weekend. It brought a proposal to the larger group to put together a list of contacts that will be available when a national story breaks. The contacts can direct the press to the appropriate bioregion or get in touch with one another to send statements in a timely manner. The contacts would rotate, and autonomous groups would pick their own people to interact with the media. This does not replace local contacts and is only for national issues. Media contacts should speak only for themselves and not for the EF! movement. This idea was consensed upon by those attending the conference.

The need for media trainings and the possibility of having a media/information collective was discussed. The media group will present another proposal at the Rendezvous. Other aspects of the media discussion focused on how to get positive and accurate information out to the media.

An open letter on political division within the movement was consented upon by all those attending the conference (see side bar).

To increase safety awareness, the group decided to compile reports of action accidents (and near accidents) that have occurred throughout our movement's history of direct action. Send descriptions to Accident Reports, POB 51564, Eugene, OR 97405; accidentreports@mailcity.com. Please include a way to contact you for follow-up questions.

A few ideas about improving the Organizers Conference included adding an extra day, making it similar to UK-style conferences, giving up on the late night stuff and less emphasis on alcohol. All in all, everyone agreed that it was a great conference! The closing circle was concluded by holding hands, howling and a quick group game of Red Rover.

It was great to see old friends and make new ones. The evening gatherings around the fire and especially the Saturday night fiesta with four gallons of margaritas and drunken pagan debauchery was great. See you next year!

Can't We Just All Get Along?

An open letter on political division within Earth First!:

The intention of this communication is to move beyond the long-standing tension between those who have chosen to renounce sabotage in their own campaigns and the rest of the EF! movement.

The national EF! movement, as represented by those who attended the Organizers Conference (February 1999, Mexico), hereby makes the following requests:

1.) Some activists associated with EF! in Northern California have been making personal attacks on the *EF! Journal* staff and other activists. Not only is this insulting and divisive, but it is a clear violation of your own nonviolence code. We ask you to end this now.

2.) The EF! movement has included sabotage in its toolbox of resistance since day one and that will not change. Yet, for a decade, a few people have tried to force their own philosophy on the entire movement. This behavior has caused tremendous alienation between EF! activists and is counterproductive to our common struggle. Autonomous groups have the right to define their own strategy of tactics, but they must accept that other groups will exercise the same freedom and that no one person or campaign can speak for the movement as a whole.

If a group so strongly objects to one of the root elements of the international movement's philosophy, then perhaps that group should change its name instead of expecting the rest of us to change our ways. The real debate within EF! should not be whether sabotage is acceptable but when it is appropriate and effective.

Consensed upon by 75 EF! Organizers Conference participants (with one stand-aside) on February 15, 1999, at the Gulf of California, Sonora, Mexico.

Miners and Enviros Unite Against the Cananea Mine

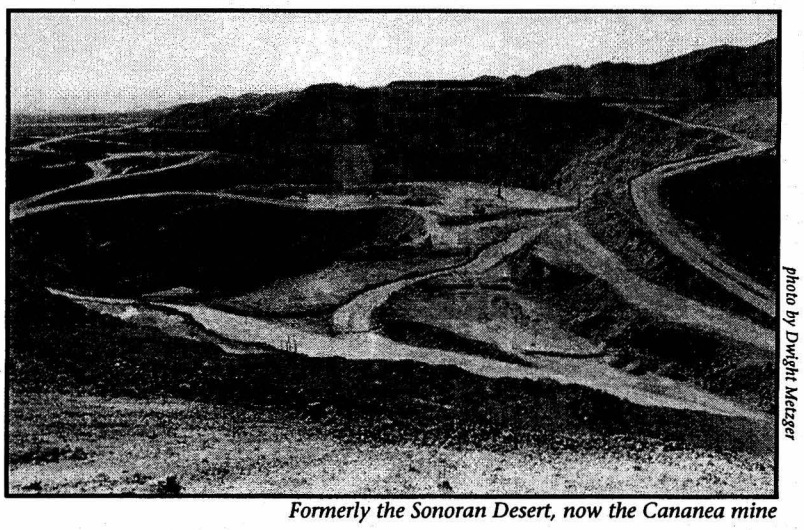


photo by Dwight Metzger

Formerly the Sonoran Desert, now the Cananea mine

BY DANIEL PATTERSON AND CHRIS FORD

Mexican miners in a struggle against the largest multinational copper mining corporation in Mexico, Grupo Mexico, were recently joined by a coalition of activists from Tucson Earth First!, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, the Global Economy Project and Arizona labor unions.

The miners began a strike after the corporation announced its intention to fire all 135 of its environmental workers, who make sure the mine's toxic run-off and tailings ponds do not spill over into the Rio Sonora, the primary water source for the people and wildlife in the desert state of Sonora, Mexico.

Some of the miners were scheduled to meet with EF! activists attending the recent Organizers Conference in Puerto Peñasco on the night of February 12. But that morning, union leadership announced it had signed an agreement that allowed for the elimination of the environmental positions and the immediate firing of almost 200 workers for their labor union activities. The miners involved in the coalition decided to take to the streets of Cananea to "express their dissatisfaction."

The activist miners took control of the town center, blockaded roads and occupied the mayor's office to protest the agreement. Because of their radical stance, local labor leaders have suffered intense harassment by mine operators, local police and the Mexican army. The houses of several union leaders have been broken into by federal police, and their families have been threatened with violence and death. (Oddly enough, a strike at the same mine sparked the Mexican Revolution in 1906).

EF! Organizers Conference participants did get a chance to meet with some of the miners at a rally held four days later at the headquarters of ASARCO (part owner of Grupo Mexico and a worldwide mining kingpin) in Tucson. When ASARCO got word of the demo endorsed by EF!, the AFL-CIO, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, Derechos Humanos, the Southern Arizona Central Labor Council and the Sierra Club Rincon chapter, it closed for the day.

The miners have repeatedly stated they need supporters in the US and abroad. The *Mina de Cananea* is an environmental catastrophe lurking on the banks of the Rio Sonora, and the efforts to stop the environmental devastation and force Grupo Mexico to restore a badly scarred landscape need our voice.

The coalition is committed to working in solidarity with the Mexican activists. The goal is to put the corporate executives on notice. They now face a strong and savvy new alliance against exploitation of workers and the land along the Southwestern borderlands. After all, we are fighting against the same enemy—multinational corporate greed and unsustainable, boom-and-bust abuse of both workers and nature.

Contact the Mexican government and demand that it enforces existing environmental laws requiring Grupo Mexico to clean up its Cananea mine. Write to Ernesto Zedillo, President of Mexico, c/o Carlos A. Torres Garcia, Mexican Consul-Tucson, 553 S. Stone Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85701; (520) 882-5595; fax 882-8959. Contact Grupo Mexico's US operations office at Minera Mexico, Gary Miller, general manager, 712 5th Ave., 39th floor, New York, NY 10019; (212) 459-0120.

For more information on Arizona borderlands ecological and labor issues contact Daniel Patterson at the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, POB 710, Tucson, AZ 85702; (520) 623-5252, ext. 307; dpatterson@sw-center.org or Chris Ford at Tucson Earth First!, POB 3412, Tucson, AZ 85722; (520) 623-7306 (box 3); chrisford1@hotmail.com.

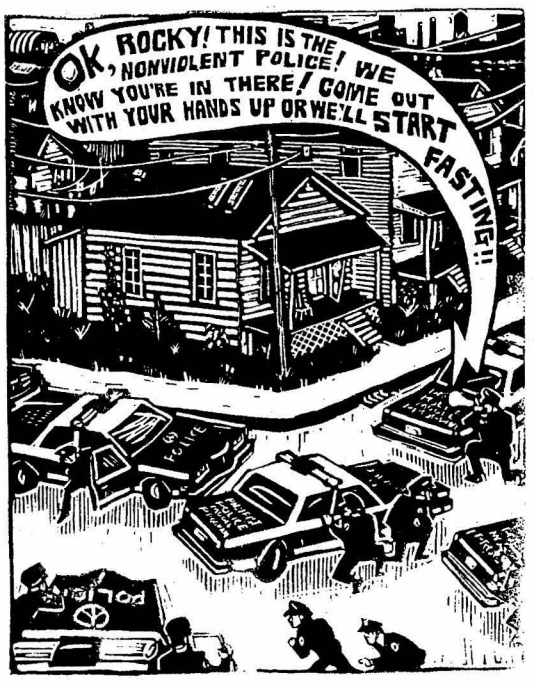
Listen, Hippies!

A Review of *Pacifism as Pathology*

REVIEWED BY ERROL SCHWEIZER

"In order to be effective and ultimately successful, any revolutionary movement within advanced capitalist nations must develop the broadest possible range of thinking/action by which to confront the state."

—WARD CHURCHILL, *PACIFISM AS PATHOLOGY*



Mythology plays a powerful role in maintaining the dominant cultural and economic institutions in any society. Many of us were taught watered-down accounts of oppositional movements in this country, such as the flower-power counterculture of the 1960s. But we were never told about Robert Williams, the League of Revolutionary Black Workers or *Los Macheteros*. And references to Dylcia Pagan, Sylvia Baraldini or Kuwasi Balagoon are usually mentioned in the context of their imprisonment, not their ideology or tactics.

It is a sad state of radical politics in America when the dominant ideology of the "opposition" recapitulates this same revisionist history. But as Ward Churchill points out in his controversial polemic, the pacifist ideological hegemony of the left has deleted or ignored a great deal of vital history that could influence the way activists think and organize. Originally published well over a decade ago, *Pacifism as Pathology* adeptly dismantles the myths that sustain a "loyal opposition" working comfortably within the neoliberal democracy. An unrelenting attack on the class, cultural and skin-colored privileges of strategic nonviolence, *Pacifism as Pathology* also fills in the historical blanks that both capitalist and pacifist mythology leave out.

For instance, while Martin Luther King is glorified by many pacifists, Churchill reminds the reader about the indelible contributions of El Haj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) and Assata Shakur, two revolutionaries who did not follow a code of nonviolence. Churchill points out that many "nonviolent" leaders were quick to capitalize on the struggles of armed militants. Another hypocrisy is the "solidarity" that pacifist groups performed for Third World liberation struggles. While hundreds of thousands of people in Vietnam, El Salvador and Nicaragua were getting napalmed, cluster bombed and gang-raped by our fellow Americans, nonviolent radicals felt it adequate to hold candlelight vigils, perform various symbolic actions and get home in time for a vegan/macrobiotic dinner.

Churchill also puts nonviolent, anti-systemic struggles in their historical context. While Gandhi was eventually successful in freeing India from British colonialism, this would not have been possible without the extreme damage done to the British empire by two world wars, as well as the confrontational tactics of various anarchist and socialist militants. The most stinging critique of pacifism is how it allows a business as usual attitude. Churchill relates this to the way that six million European Jews were exterminated in Nazi Germany. He points out that during the few instances of armed Jewish resistance, such as the legendary Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Nazi war machine was quite shaken. The ideas that Churchill presents here are very relevant today considering how eco-cide and genocide are now very real, while many college educated progressives look for upward mobility in the "nonprofit" sector of corporate capitalism.

While dismantling the fallacies of pacifist ideology, Churchill offers some suggestions geared towards building a coherent praxis, an agenda based on the dialectical relationship between theory and action. Perhaps the most appropriate suggestion is what he calls "Reality Therapy," where supposed radicals have to experience what daily life is like for a resident of Harlem, Compton or the highlands of Guatemala. This way, an activist will put his/her beliefs into practice and recognize the necessary tactics to effect social change. It will also be a reminder that the ruling elite will not be won over by anyone's "love" or good feelings, as some luminaries have recently suggested.

One unfortunate flaw in Churchill's analysis is his own ideological blinders. Like Marx, he denies he is a Marxist, yet most of the revolutionary formations he describes are Marxist-Leninist or Maoist in character. Little mention is heard of the anarchists of revolutionary Spain or the autonomous movements that rocked western Europe in recent decades. He is also surprisingly uncritical of the authoritarianism and misogyny that was present in many of the groups he describes. It is also important to note that many of the political prisoners that he dedicates the book to have renounced Marxist-Leninism in favor of anarchism, a trend that mirrors the current irrelevance of authoritarian leftism.

Pacifism as Pathology does an excellent job of expanding radical thought past the current confines of acceptability on the left. As a cautionary note, former political prisoner Ed Mead warns in the preface that his own armed actions and those of his comrades were premature, a lesson that should be well studied by today's radicals. But the overall message of the book is a warning against pacifying ourselves, a suicidal move in a very violent world that suppresses change and dissent. *Pacifism as Pathology* is an excellent way to survey the successes and mistakes of other radical formations. It is also a raucous wake-up call for eco-radicals—not only should we take grassroots outreach and community organizing as seriously as ever so that we do not isolate ourselves, but we should no longer mythologize radical history, nor handcuff ourselves to an ahistorical, stagnant set of beliefs.

guns, germs and steel

REVIEWED BY TK

"... Some parts of the world developed literate industrial societies with metal tools, other parts developed only non-literate farming societies... Those historical inequalities have cast long shadows over the modern world because the literate societies have conquered or exterminated the other societies. While those differences constitute the most basic fact of world history, the reasons for them remain uncertain and controversial."

—JARED DIAMOND, *GUNS, GERMS AND STEEL*

Guns, Germs and Steel sets out to prove the following thesis: A detailed account of why wealth and power are distributed as they are today across the globe can be obtained by studying the natural history of human societies. This compelling theoretical model of human evolution is known as "geographic determinism," and this cogent and exhaustive argument for it won the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction in 1997.

Evolutionary biologist Jared Diamond begins by reciting what is known about the first six-million years of human evolution in Africa, then segues into a description of what he calls "The Great Leap Forward," which occurred 50,000 years ago when, "modern skeletons, superior weapons and other advanced cultural traits" appeared. But most of the book is about the (r)evolutionary step for humanity which occurred 10,000 years ago with the advent of plant and animal domestication.

Diamond argues that plant ecology best explains why, after a few million years of living exclusively as hunter-gatherers, so many populations across the globe became farmers. Certain species of wild plants readily lent themselves to this new human project. Why domestication did not develop in a few areas, especially California and Australia, he calls "perplexing," but concludes the Pacific Coast was so fertile, all basic needs were easily met in a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. This begs the question, however, of the role of the culturally determined definition of "needs"—a big omission in the context of this work. Human agency plays very little role in the *Guns, Germs and Steel* model of human evolution, and the proposition that there may have always been critics of civilization among us doesn't occur to Diamond. (Personally, I prefer to think generations of hunter-gatherers consciously rejected domestication, chose to continue lifeways in harmony with wild nature and understood the inevitability of the rise and fall of civilizations long before Western intellectuals did.)

For Diamond, understanding the origin and influence of domestication is absolutely critical to understanding the contemporary distribution of wealth and power. He writes: "In short, plant and animal domestication meant much more food and hence much denser human populations. The resulting food surpluses... were a prerequisite for the development of settled, politically centralized, socially stratified, economically complex, technologically innovative societies." Anyone who thinks "Back to the Pleistocene" is more than just a cool slogan will appreciate this book for its adept use of the scientific paradigm to support the radical contention that we humans took a wrong turn at sedentary agriculture.

This leads into the discussion of how knowledge is power and how the most powerful form of knowledge is technological knowledge, which Diamond calls "the leading cause of history's broadest pattern." He describes technological innovation as an "autocatalytic" process, or "one that speeds up at a rate that increases with time because the process catalyzes itself." How this process leads directly to more and more intricate and hierarchical forms of social organization (and more state power and control) is the focus of the chapter entitled, "From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy." Diamond points out the only truly egalitarian societies in human history were the low-tech bands and tribes of hunter-gatherers. Chiefdoms and states, which emerged only after the practice of agriculture began, are all, by definition, unabashed hierarchical kleptocracies.

In light of this fact, Diamond ponders a very salient question about humanity's role in guiding its own future, asking, "Why do the commoners tolerate the transfer of the fruits of their hard labor to kleptocrats?" He answers his own question by analyzing the typical recipe used by elites to achieve and maintain social control: "1) Disarm the populace, and arm the elite... 2) Make the masses happy by redistributing much of the tribute received, in popular ways... 3) Use the monopoly of force to promote happiness, by maintaining public order and curbing violence... 4) ...construct an ideology or religion justifying kleptocracy." The final chapters are then devoted to an impressive geographical tour tracing the rise, diffusion and eventual dominance of the state-level kleptocracies of Europe, America and Asia.

Diamond's summation of how the superpowers got where they are today goes like this:

The unique ecology of their bioregions enabled antecedents of these cultures to develop agriculture, guns, germs, steel and other complex technologies first. These societies contrived the political will to use innovation to successfully conquer and subjugate peaceful, primitive neighbors. Once the territories had been seized, usually by the violent use of force, nature's abundance was efficiently exploited to appease the elite's avaricious lust for expansion and control.

As for the fall of civilizations, Diamond points out that the Fertile Crescent cultures of the Middle East actually had the head start on food production 10,000 years ago. Yet, "(they) had the misfortune to arise in an ecologically fragile environment. They committed ecological suicide by destroying their own resource base."

So You Think You Got Something to Say

continued from page 3

Dear Earth First!,

Hello! My name is Alicia. And I'm 20 years old. I'm part of a group that tries to make people aware of the damage that big companies cause to the environment and the people living there and also of the benefits of animal liberation (also that we have no right to kill them). We have a "fanzines-fair." We go to a park once a week and also go to concerts when we're invited to. There we try to divulge our ideas and interests (ecology, animal liberation and anarchism). Nevertheless, not many people understand what we do, most persons who come to the "fair" are young people who already know what we're talking about. Adults don't seem to care about what we say and they're reluctant to change their minds.

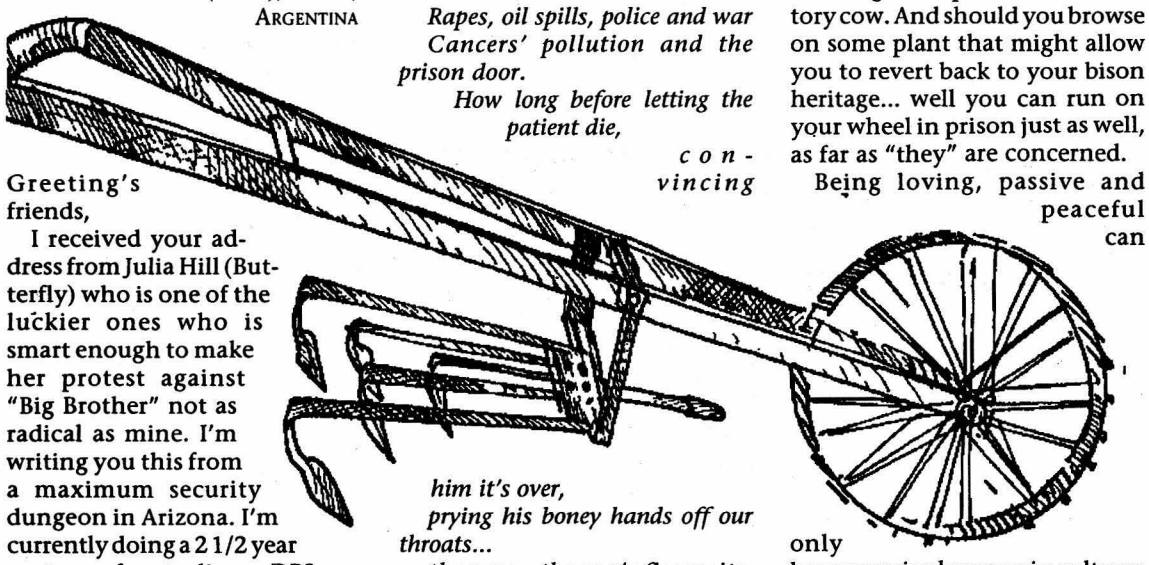
There is a McDonald's in our town. At the fair we have posters which show the damages McDonald's cause to the environment and how they exploit its workers. Because of what McDonald's *really* is (and not what they say they are). We organized a direct action last October 16. We painted bus stops with phrases against McDonald's and delivered leaflets. We also threw hydrocarbons in the toilets (these sent off an awful smell). Anyway, I don't think we've caused much damage to this company. Another day, some boys in the group were painting a phrase against McD and they were caught by the police. Luckily, they were retained at the police station for some hours and then they were sent free. But since that day we have to be more careful with what we do.

Information at the "fanzines fair" doesn't seem to be enough to inform people in general, that's why we recur to direct actions. But we don't know how to do it very well. That's why I'm writing to you, to ask you for information about direct actions and the precautions we should take. One boy in the group knows a lot of chemistry and he could help us or guide us with the actions. Well, I hope to receive an answer from you soon.

Best Wishes,

—Alicia

Feria de Material Independiente, Casilla De Correo #94, Campana CP (2804), BS AS, Argentina



Greeting's friends,

I received your address from Julia Hill (Butterfly) who is one of the luckier ones who is smart enough to make her protest against "Big Brother" not as radical as mine. I'm writing you this from a maximum security dungeon in Arizona. I'm currently doing a 2 1/2 year sentence for stealing a DPS (Department of Public Safety) police car. I stole the car as a statement against thousands of dollars that are being spent on security equipment for police stations each year! So last year I walked into a police station yard and stole one of their vehicles! I had the car for two weeks!

When I was going to court they tried to cover the fact of how I stole the car (to cover their ass). They said that if I took a plea for 2 1/2 years, it would be cool (so they could bury it). If I went to trial and made a big deal about it (like going to the papers and news media), they would try to give me 14 years! So now I sit doing 2 1/2 years. Sometimes I regret it, but those are years of my life they were talking about.

Even though I'm doing this time it hasn't touched my anarchistic views at all. There is way too much power now in our system of law. When our political leaders stop violating our amendment rights, then maybe I won't go to such extremes.

Julia (Butterfly) seems to think that I should channel my fire into more public demonstrations of protest. I believe that in either case the effectiveness will be over heard above the consumeristic, corporate, oppressive and destructive society.

Julia also said something about your *Journal*. Do you think I could check out a sample issue? Well that's about it for now.

Love and Respect,

—Allen Moller #80432, A.S.P.C.-Eyman-SMU-1, POB 4000, Florence, AZ 85232

Dear EF!,

Listening to all that partisan bickering in the last SFB section makes me want to *gag*! *Shut the hell up*! Lets move on and heal our wounds. Solidarity to all my dirty brothers and sisters, with special thanks to the *Journal* staff for their very important work.

—Dr. GRAF E.T. 1999 voice of the poor

On the Vail arson,

I accept the fire of love and rage.
Beyond freedom lies the responsibility of Death.
To destroy arrogant madness
while building up a garden to bloom and fruit.
Society is fueling itself against natural death and decomposition.
It is full of sickness, its institutions and traditions hollow with rot.
Civilization as we have it must die.
How many dis-eases must we endure?
Rapes, oil spills, police and war
Cancers' pollution and the prison door.
How long before letting the patient die,
con-
vincing
him it's over,
prying his boney hands off our throats...
the pyre—the sun's fire waits.

For the Earth and Her People,

—batpiss

P.S. I want to thank ELF *and* AFR for everything they do to defend the Earth. I ask AFR people to take heart and not let their sudden experience with the police state and a knee-jerk public stop them from rolling with the changes and going forward. I ask them also to realize that when someone with access to media says they'd rather see the Wild destroyed than property damaged, *they* are cutting people off at the knees (necks?).

P.P.S. The *EF!J* is better than I ever knew. Keep on!

Dear EF!,

Troy is right, "fighting for peace is like fucking for virginity," and she'd be a bit more at home with the Rainbow family. There are however, a number of people who believe its about fighting for the Earth, not peace. Peace is good if you can get it. But first things first. No Earth, no peace.

The brave souls in lockdown enduring the cowardly acts of the police and frustrated loggers need to stop being "chumps for stumps" immediately in the locales where such behavior has become habitual. Make the cowards wish you were still peacefully resisting.

When in the public arena and asked: "Who do you represent?," you just might find responding: "myself," to be more empowering. If the *EF! Journal* wants to cover the event, fine. I personally would rather have someone tell me they love me rather than "Jesus loves you" (no offense to Jesus). At any rate this could prevent individuals from absorbing the wrath that being labeled Earth First! might evoke. After all, we are just ourselves, aren't we?

For the more private of us: He who fights and runs away, leaves/lives to fight another day. I love peace, and it grieves me to tell the Butterflies that there is a war going on and has been for a very long time. It's coming to a head now. It started when a faction of humanity, slowly at first, developed a need to control everything. With their sites on the universe and the Earth as a disposable commodity, all life forms are expendable except those to be fed on, enslaved or for amusement. And your job is to be a hamster running around in a wheel going nowhere but making the whole thing turn, allowing the vision to be possible. You/us being the equivalent of a factory cow. And should you browse on some plant that might allow you to revert back to your bison heritage... well you can run on your wheel in prison just as well, as far as "they" are concerned.

Being loving, passive and peaceful can only have marginal success in cultures trapped in the "big lie." The driving force, or the vacuum in the center, is attempting to be god, but ya know, "they" can't do it. They're just way too tacky. But they can and will bring down the Earth in their pursuit if we don't stop them!

Sincerely,

—Corry E. Mason

Dear SFB,

Let me see if I got the facts straight. After publishing the instructions on how to make an incendiary device in your Yule edition no lives have been harmed. And your readers are enraged. But during that same period, the US government has dropped hundreds of incendiary devices on Iraqi men, women and children. And your readers are silent. Darryl, I don't think we really want to know what our elders and ancestors are thinking on this one.

Signed,

—Bob Berman

Dear Schist Ordains,

For years and years I've avoided the endless posturing and debate in these pages about tree-spiking, nonviolence and the lot. However, this recent spate of verbosity has finally pushed me over the edge and onto the page. Why? Because now, more than ever, time is short. Remember the World Scientist Warning to Humanity released back in 1992? It stated: "... no more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity (and the rest of creation) are immeasurably diminished." And recently, at the international climate conference in Buenos Aires, members of Britain's Hadley Centre for Climate Change released a climatic disruption scenario generated from the largest supercomputer in the world. It is referred to as "Humanities Greatest Challenge." It is not pretty. It calls for our immediate attention. I could go on, but I'm sure you get my point.

The sorry-ass rhetoric posing as debate on tactics in these pages serves no real purpose other than to divide us. There is a marked difference between critiquing an action and condemning an action. The latter is hostile and divisive, something we might wish to reserve for *enemies* of the Earth. The fore is useful and might lead toward better strategies and tactics in the future. Perhaps Earth First! sees less of the latter in the UK because, over there, "civilization" has existed for a longer time (the definition of civilization in this case having emphasis on "civil"). But here on Turtle Island, especially west of the Mississippi in the wild and woolly West, even the tree huggers seem to shoot from the hip. It's more heat than light, however.

Some high-profile warriors (one of whom seems so puffed up with self-importance as to cloud his vision, not to mention his common decency) have erred into condemnation when contemplation is called for. And some lofty peaceful warriors have confused dissatisfaction with disassociation, following the high road to the land of polarization. On the other hand, some of the more militant warriors have mistaken our commonly held motto with uncommon bravado. Things are degenerating.

In short, time is short. If one is going to make the now tiresome statement that "we must use every tool in the box," then one *must* respect another who uses such a tool, though seemingly in a poorly thought-out manner. You can disagree with the tactic without slamming the individual or individuals. We call this civility—better yet, solidarity. It has a *very* important purpose.

I, too, can pull rank here and go on about my long service in the movement, but I do it now simply to point out that I have seen talk like what we are witnessing here play into the hands of the enemy in the past. Rest assured, agent provocateurs and scumbags in smokey backrooms love this stuff. They feed on it. We best not go the way of the Black Panthers and the early AIM, torn apart in part by their own infighting and egotistical posturing. Our adversary is far more dangerous than theirs was (though in many ways it is the same). If it has its way, the entire planet will suffer greatly. Surely a small thing like your anger or opinion pales greatly in comparison.

—Oak

Dear Radicals,

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stabil-

But Do You Think Anyone Gives a Damn?

ity and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise," Aldo Leopold said. Clearly our industrial corporate/consumer lifestyle does not tend to preserve. It tends to destroy the biosphere and enhance the profits of the corporate elite. In my experience EF! doesn't have much to say about lifestyle alternatives when it promotes *direct action*. Do we assume that an acre, a house and 2.3 kids, 2 cars, a computer... Safeway and Sears are "perpetuatable?"

Do we ever seriously talk about population reduction and the means to its realization? Are permacultural intentional communities, land trusts and the ideas of socialism, extended families, cooperative energies too lefty for us EF!ers (the so-called radicals). Radical lifestyle changes *en masse* are crucial for a positive sustainable future. EF! must take the radical actions back home (I know many already do). Do we employ ourselves by increasing corporate profits and thus more genocide/ecocide? It's not enough to resist the spoilers. We must co-create breath to breath living patterns of Earth First! before it's too late. Cooperative lifestyle is a most direct action!

—Bruce Shearer

Dear Earth First!

Happy to see our condolences printed in the *Journal*, but there are a couple of typos that need correcting. Please find room to print hymn from the *devas* correctly, and please point out it's *Devas* not *Divas* (as in Madonna). The former are beings I do not care to misquote so here goes: Oh noble and worthy exploiters and conquerors have mercy have mercy do not end our singing which allows the conditions necessary, to all life on the planet as you *know* it—(not as you *"kill it"* as appeared). This is not a small typo so please fix. Thank you.

—Suzy Hamilton

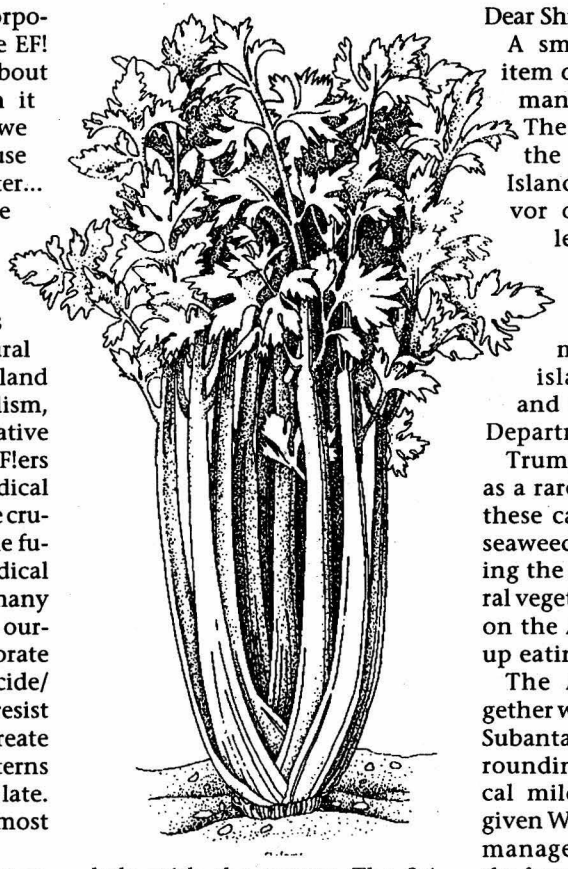
P.S. Oh, and my apologies if I'm the one who wrote it that way, but Glada's not going to be happy when she reads *kill*.

To those that are concerned,

As a Grand Canyon National Park Service employee, I will not be signing my name. You will understand why, later in this letter. As a long-term resident I am alarmed at what is happening to our park. Several months ago construction began for a new railway and visitor center. Its purpose was to transport people from the town of Tusayan to the new visitor center at Mather Point thus, less car traffic at Grand Canyon Village.

Recently, Grand Canyon Superintendent Arnberger went to Congress to ask for money ($70 million) to build the visitor center and railway. When he was turned down, he told Congress the project had already been started with Grand Canyon funds. After Congress found he had started the project with incomplete funds and there *were* 18 to 19 Native American Archeological sites in the path of the project, Congress asked for the Environmental Impact Assesment Statement on the land. Mr. Arnberger told Congress he did not conduct the survey.

When Mr. Arnberger returned to the Grand Canyon, he went to the Science Center and asked for



help with the survey. The Science Center reminded Mr. Arnberger he had been advised to do the Environmental Impact survey *two* years ago and refused to help him. To add further injury to our park, it is my understanding Mr. Arnberger gave the lumber from the construction project to the contractors, which they promptly sold for profit. Now we have logging in our national park. The lumber from the project was slated to the Native American Indian reservations.

How can Mr. Arnberger so flagrantly break the law, by the *forever destruction* of archeological sites? The Science Center informed him of the archeological sites two years ago, and he knowingly destroyed a people's history and heritage. How can Mr. Arnberger give lumber away when Grand Canyon residents pay for it, not to mention once again, breaking the law allowing the contractor to sell the lumber for profit.

I have lived here long enough to see more than a few of the useless monuments that superintendents build to honor their presence at Grand Canyon. The South Gate parking lot. It was built for the same purpose as the new railway, to separate people from their cars. It was used for several months then became a storage area. Next came the new train station. The multi-million dollar building has never been used as a train station. It sat empty for many years and now houses the backcountry hiking office as well as a bus stop for the huge parking lot surrounding the station.

In trying to keep this letter brief, I have only scratched the surface with the above examples. The list is lengthy. Is the American public going to pay for yet another monument? If you doubt my letter, please come and see for yourself. While we will not talk to you with our uniforms on, we will seek you out if you visit the Grand Canyon. Low morale and disgust are prevalent in Mr. Arnberger's kingdom. Thank you very much for your time.

—Anonymous

Dear Shit For Brains,

A small correction to your item on New Zealand genetic manipulators cloning a cow. The cow was not native to the Subantarctic Auckland Islands but was the last survivor of a herd of cattle released there last century as a living food store for passing sailors. The cattle caused immense damage to the island's natural ecology and were eradicated by our Department of Conservation.

Trumpeted in the local media as a rare seaweed-eating breed, these cattle were forced to eat seaweed to survive after depleting the island's palatable natural vegetation. If I was marooned on the Aucklands, I would end up eating seaweed too!

The Auckland Islands, together with New Zealand's other Subantarctic Islands and the surrounding seas out to 12 nautical miles, have recently been given World Heritage status. Key management issues for the future are eradicating any remaining alien weeds and pests on the islands and effectively protecting the New Zealand sea lions and albatrosses which are being killed in fisheries in the surrounding oceans. Needless to say, this marine carnage gets less coverage in our media than the so-called cloning miracles of the genetic engineers.

Yours sincerely,

—Kevin Smith, conservation director, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Wellington, New Zealand

Dear SFB,

I sure hope that lynx picture wasn't taken at a fur farm. Was it?

—Problem Bear

Ed. Note: The photo was provided to us by the wildlife biologist who conducted the lynx habitat studies ahead of the Vail expansion. While captive, it was not a fur farm captive.

To whom it may concern,

I am from Eugene. Could you please move your headquarters? I don't like people thinking that Eugene is the home of communist groups like yours. You are a very small (but stupid) minority. The only thing your actions are doing is waking a sleeping giant. I happen to like being human, and I believe we can and will solve our problems without acting like a bunch of terrorists. But I know I'm wasting my time writing to you. So I hope more of your bombs blow up in your faces and more loggers get a hold of your scrawny asses and kick them.

—John.Marley@xilinx.com

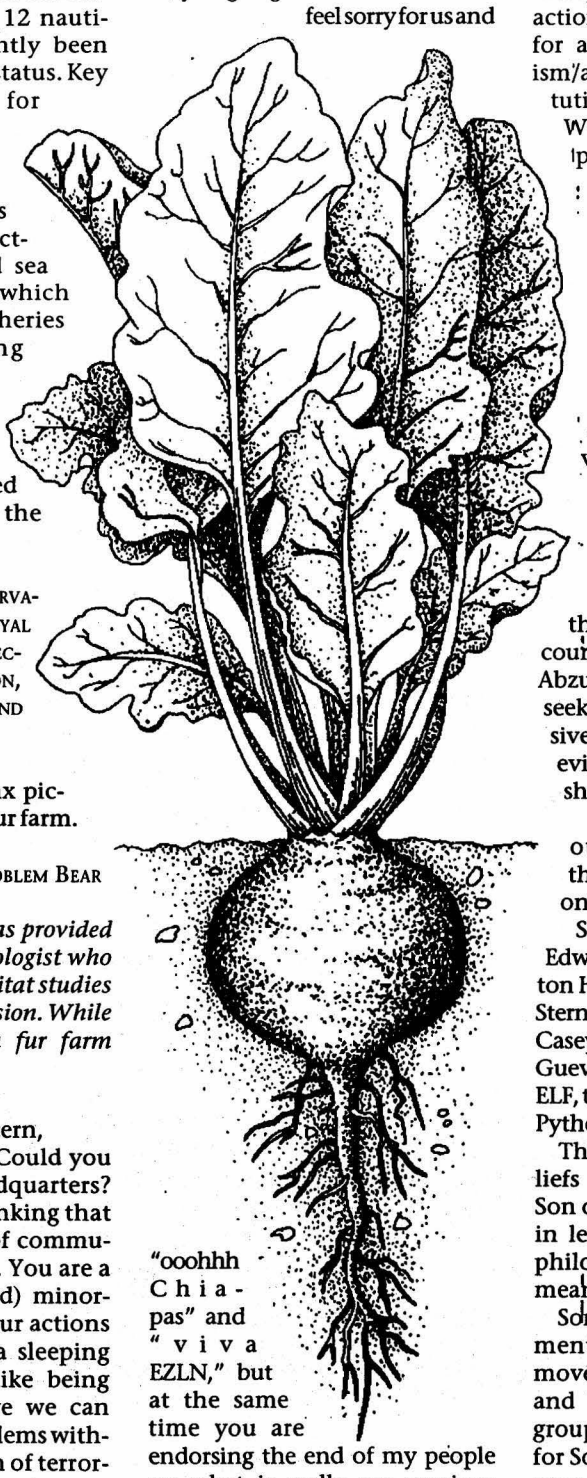
Greetings,

I'm not sure if this was the right place to write for feedback, but I would like to find out about LA's Earth First! chapter. Why is LA's Earth First! linked on a right-wing directory page of anti-immigration? That directory is directed at Mexicans born here and in Mexico (which is both really Aztlan). The URL is right here: http://numbersusa.com/cgi/groupdisplay.cgi?state=CA-LX

Apparently, LA Earth First! is in concordance with the ASAP Action Plan, a very right-wing, racist, hateful proposal targeted at Mexicans/Chicanos, endorsing race bashing, genocide and greed.

If this is so, then do other chapters back this up? If so, then you people are not worthy of your so-called radical mission. I have a few friends in the local Earth First!, and I will let them know about the Anti-Mexican ASAP plan, for when they joined they thought they were joining an anarchist-like "collective."

And I will also make it a point to spread this along to as many collectives and clusters as I can. See, this is where my frustration comes in, you gringos come around and feel sorry for us and



"ooohhh Chiapas" and "viva EZLN," but at the same time you are endorsing the end of my people on what is really *our* precious Aztlan! Figures...

I demand a full explanation of this matter, for if it is true, we can no longer support the actions of Earth First! or its "mission."

We will stand by our own mission as native indigenous people of this land, the land which is Aztlan-Chichomoztoc. Tiahui!

—Mictlacihuatl for the Mictlan/Anahuac Nation

Los Angeles EF! responds:

No one involved with LA Earth First!, to the coordinators' knowledge, has ever asked us to be a signatory to such an inflammatory, discriminatory group, nor would we ever if asked. We have long held to biological and cultural diversity as the key to sustaining life and have always aligned with groups which feel similarly.

—LA EF!

Dear Earth First!,

No longer will PC interests pollute the Earth First! agenda.

From the bowels... no, the *balls* of Earth First! an old mentality has been unearthed... The Sons of Hayduke!

Beliefs and ideas of the founding Sons of Hayduke members: Dogma and doctrine shall be mocked. Every fire is a rowdy fire. Vail was the ultimate rowdy fire. Nonviolence is a tactic... *not* a lifestyle. We support any and all action to defend the Earth. Call for a reduction of intellectualism/academia. No media prostitution. Reduction of politeness. We understand that some people *need* to be offended. Individual autonomy. We embrace brutal honesty. It is the sacred duty of the Sons of Hayduke to provoke nonviolence trainers to acts of violence (see *Freeman vs. Wade* Big Woods Rendezvous '98).

Sons of Hayduke do not encourage violence at nonviolent encampments, but rude, crude and offensive behavior is always welcome. Maleness is okay. As the name suggests, this is a penis-only club (members of the opposite sex are hereby encouraged to form daughters of Abzug or something similar). We seek out creative ways to be offensive. PC sucks. Self-censorship is evil. Greetings and wakeup calls should be violent experiences. We hope these ideas and our movement can cut through the crap and let us all, once again, put the Earth First!

Sons of Hayduke! influences: Edward Abbey, George Washington Hayduke, Larry Flynt, Howard Stern, Paul Watson, Dave Foreman, Casey Neill, Abbie Hoffman, Che Guevarra, Black Flag, the IRA, the ELF, the ALF, Assrash, MDC, Monty Python and Michael Moore.

These lists are only general beliefs and do not apply to every Son of Hayduke! Also, we believe in letting our actions form our philosophy so these are by no means a dogma or doctrine.

Sons of Hayduke! is a movement within the Earth First! movement so feel free to embrace and begin a Sons of Hayduke! group in your bioregion. Watch for Sons of Hayduke! at a rendezvous near you!

For further info, criticism, contacts, ideas, hate mail, etc... contact Sons of Hayduke! POB 580103, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0103.

—Midwest Sons of Hayduke!

HEY EVERYBODY, LISTEN UP, THESE

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Every year the Government spends over $800-million of your tax dollars to log public forests

APRIL 15

CUT TAXES— NOT TREES

National Forest Protection Campaign

For information contact: Jeanette Russell, Campaign Coordinator Native Forest Network, POB 8251, Missoula, MT, 59807; (406) 542-7343.

SUBMIT YOUR STORIES

We'd like to invite activists to submit their heroic stories of direct actions that Ruckus can post on an "Action Clearinghouse" section of our web site.

Got lots? Pick your favorite one!

We're looking for any narrative that includes:

What worked well? What went wrong? What did you run into that wasn't expected? What did not get considered in the planning, organization and logistics? What were your objectives, and did you meet them? Were you happy with the results? How long did you plan? What did you learn about your strategy? tactic? logistics? training? communications? etc. What was your media strategy? hook? message? Was it effective? What questions would you ask yourself beforehand if you were to do it again? What humor came out of it? What funny or interesting things happened? What did you learn emotionally? Technically? Physiologically? Any tips or things you'd do differently?

Pictures are needed as well.

You do not need to reveal your true identify or bioregion.

Whether it happened six years ago or six months ago, send it in. We'll put 'em in by date!

James Ace, Program Director, The Ruckus Society, 2054 University Avenue, Suite #204, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 848-9565, fax 848-9541; ace@ruckus.org.

Midwest Rendezvous

May 21-23

Come learn new skills, meet friends and have a great time. This rendezvous will be three days of learning, sharing and working together. Come on out and enjoy the fun. Plan to be self-sufficient and please keep pets at home. For more information please contact North Forest Earth First!, 748 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901; (920) 424-0265; seac@pobox.uwosh.edu.

BIKE SUMMER 1999

Come join activities designed to shift the balance of forces regarding transportation. Events will center around a July Critical Mass ride, the second anniversary of the huge "Willie Brown Weenie" ride. For info see the Bike Summer website at www.sfbike.org/bikesummer or call (415) 431-2453

San Francisco, CA

May Day Gathering

April 30-May 2, 1999

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The Leonard Peltier Organizing Conference

Sponsored by the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

June 25, 26, and 27, 1999

Haskell Indian Nations University • Lawrence, Kansas

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Future Actions to Free Leonard Peltier • Legal Presentation • Lobbying • Building a Support Group Network • Prison Issues Presentation • Presentation on International Campaign • Political Prisoners

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Some of the speakers will include Leonard's lawyers, survivors of the1975 Oglala fire fight, renowned human rights advocate, Jennifer Harbury, Mandela's lawyer, Lennox Hinds, ex-political prisoners and prisoner advocates such as Pam Africa, and Dacajeweiah, NCAI president, Ernie Stevens Jr., David Dellinger of the Chicago Eight Conspiracy Trial and many more.

For a Registration Form Send a SASE to

LEONARD PELTIER DEFENSE COMMITTEE

PO Box 583 • Lawrence, KS 66044 • 785-842-5774

< lpdc@idir.net >

http://members.xoom.com/freepeltier/index.html

JUNE 18

IT'S GETTING CLOSER

Activists from diverse groups and movements around the world are networking for an international day of action aimed at the heart of the global economy: the financial centers, banking districts and multinational corporate power bases. The June 18 occupation and transformation of financial districts across the globe will contribute to the process of making connections and building alternatives to the present social order.

The call to action is timed to coincide with the first day of the Group of Seven (G7) Summit, a gathering of the leaders of the richest nation-state in Koln, Germany.

In the spirit of strengthening international networks for equality, freedom and ecological sustainability, we encourage all sympathetic movements and groups to organize their own autonomous protests and actions on June 18.

Your participation—no matter how small—is crucial; meetings need to be organized, events planned, leaflets printed and distributed, funds raised, laughter and conversation shared. If we cooperate and coordinate we can realize a different world; has it ever been so necessary and so possible?

Subscribe to the J18 email list. For international planning and discussion, send an email to: listproc@gn.apc.org. Please request Subscribe <J18DISCUSSION> and include your email address.

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE CONFERENCE

June 24-28

An international, interdisciplinary conference exploring many aspects of the relationship between humanity and nature will be held at the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland. It will be a unique chance to meet and network with people from a variety of disciplines and cultures who share a love of the natural world and a concern for our mutual welfare. Early registration is recommended as the conference will be limited to 300 participants. Contact For the Love of Nature, Centre for Human Ecology, POB 1972, Edinburgh, EH1 1YG, Scotland;lovenature@clan.com; www.clan.com/environment/che.

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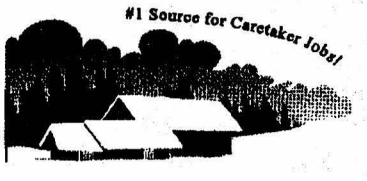

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ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

Cove/Mallard Spring Action Training Camp

May 26-31, 1999

Come join us at our beautiful base camp for an action training. Our tentative list of workshops includes: blockade how to's, tree sits, map and compass, field monitoring of timber sales, stream survey techniques, tracking wildlife, edible and medicinal wild plants, nonviolence training, legal realities, base camp and backcountry logistics, and video work for actions and monitoring. We will also have great free food, late night howls around the camp fire and the company of your favorite wing-nuts. This event will kick off another summer and fall of resistance in Otter-Wing. Contact us at POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208)882-9755; Cove@Moscow.com. We eat curry lentils and we never sleep!

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Reclaim Western Shoshone Land!

Nevada Test Site
Mother's Day
May 7-10th, 1999

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Honor - Celebrate - Heal - Create

Community Defense Fund Established

The Citizens, Oil and Gas Council announced today the establishment of the Community Defense Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to raise money for the purpose of providing legal, technical and financial support to citizens and communities who find themselves in conflict with the activities of the oil and gas industry.

One hundred percent of the funds raised by the COGC will be dispersed in defense of individuals and communities being adversely affected by the activities of the oil and gas industry in Canada, the United States and Mexico. Decisions to support specific causes will be made by the COGC Board of Directors, upon receipt of requests for support and applications from effected citizens and communities. Donations to the Fund can be sent to Community Defense Fund, c/o Citizens' Oil & Gas Council, Suite 203, 1225A Kensington Road NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 3P8; (403) 270-3455; sawyer@rmec.org.

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May 21-23

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Norman Solomon
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Our goal is dismantling the mechanism of corporate control, not just regulating it. This event is a precursor to June 18. Contact End Corporate Dominance Alliance, POB 1375, Portland, OR 97207.

Portland State University
Portland, Oregon

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The World Trade Organization Ministerial

Seattle, Washington

November 29th-December 3rd, 1999

Created in 1993 as a successor to the Global Agreement on Trades and Tariffs, the entire purpose of the World Trade Organization has been to lessen the restrictions that local and national governments can place on transnational corporations. The World Trade Organization does so by hammering out NAFTA-style trade agreements.

For decades the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and now the World Trade Organization, in alliance with national governments and corporate powers, have attempted to appropriate the environment.

Last year when the World Trade Organization met in Geneva, there were four days of rioting. The opposition was led by People's Global Action. Thousands of demonstrators smashed hundreds of windows of banks, buildings and corporate offices, causing over a million dollars worth of damage. The streets were filled with riot police and demonstrators and the noise of sirens and low flying helicopters was prevalent during much of the four day meeting.

Demonstrations are being planned for this year. People's Global Action is planning on bringing a caravan from Mexico. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is organizing around labor issues. The Art and Revolution collectives will present workshops in Seattle about street theater and nonviolent direct action.

Come join the party in the streets! For information or to get involved the interim contact for organizing efforts is Community Action Network, POB 95113, Seattle, WA 98145; (206) 632-1656; can@drizzle.com.

FREE TRIAL ISSUE

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JUDGMENT DAY

The masters of linearity planned it all wrong
thinking THEY could bring the order of objectivity
to the precious chaos of natural process and
rhythms but ancient yearnings are learning
spurning training to reawaken,
recessive traits, long dormant, are stirring
we the people diverge
grow distant from our earth
all the OTHER creatures lag behind, holding on to
traditions and their gentle, not-yet-forgotten pasts no
laptops, nintendos, or noisy contraptions
to muffle the din
of the call
of the wild

Domestication's edge is fading
genetic manipulations are zeroed out
as INSTINCT tramples human commands and training
Bye bye bye bye biotechnology
Hell hell hell hello earth, air, fire, water
Our mother, our planet SHE remembers her past splendor
shakes her back of pesky skyscrapers, highways and dams
sends them back to outer space, BACK where they came from
The Great Turtle's mind is perplexed
Earth Mother's innards are RUMBLING with indigestion
they know it's time to clear the slate
a cleansing armageddon is near
cows realize their senseless fate, scramble over cattle
guards rip up fences
chickens peck at toenails
cats chew out phone lines
dogs piss on your leg
call of the wild

What goes around comes around
technology sputters, backfires
More and more people forget they are really animals
and now they have FORFEITED
their claim on ANY corner of THIS biosphere
our connection to the earth dwindles in the
CACOPHONY of knee-jerk technology and useless shit
serving only the pushers of greed
the opiate of two-bit corporate hustlers
they think they can sell us anything
then use our money to buy the votes
to assure it will always be so
Hey, Joe Camel, how you doing you fuzzy-
faced phallus-nosed phony?
the real camels know the score
they kick holes in your kneecaps
cows shit happily in the rancher's pool,
trample his cars and his worthless chem-lawn greenery
chickens roost in pine trees, they aim
their eggs at YOU
cats piss on computers (no more
email)
packs of dogs patrol the freeways
call of the wild

It started out just fine
but things have gone astray
our animal roots have been yanked from fertile
soil force-fed diets of technological
distractions
and its antiseptic mindset
people follow like lemmings, right into the sea
til the fateful day the umbilical cord SNAPS
domestication's edge is lost
to rhythms thought long past
guess it's time to purge the gene pool of useless DNA
and species that can't pull their weight
trees PUNCH through concrete, overnight
they're coming back to stay
cattle stampede off a cliff and dive-bomb passing
cars (all right Bessie, you hit a motor home extra
points!) chickens peck your kneecaps bloody
cats claw your eyes out
dogs kill your masters
call of the wild

Have you forgotten you're an animal or will you be wasted, too?
Lost your dog? Lost your cat?
They've heard the call and won't be back
Call of the Wild
howl

—Thomas Handy Loon

MEDUSA'S EYES

The earth had always been alive in the mind of man
Tree possessed spirits, messages for him were writ
large in the clouds and animals possessed special powers.
The very earth did speak if an ear was placed to the ground.

Yesterday, in real earth time, the Ice Wizard froze the world,
creating dead matter. The only animated things were men and
automatons called animals. Man was a robot from the head down;
the only living thing, the Ice Wizard's brain.

COGITO ERGO SUM

the Ice Wizard said

Then a Newton came on the scene and watched an apple fall.
An idea was born which swept the earth, that the world was
in the grasp of an unalterable, universal mechanical law.
This granted supremacy to physics, chemistry and engineering.

I THINK THEREFORE I DO

Newton's followers said

Then there was Francis Bacon who developed methods which
would reveal nature's most hidden places. We must put
nature to the rack to hear her secrets. Nature is there
for us to ravage. Profits can be made but we must be savage.

I THINK THEREFORE I KNOW GREED

averred Mr. Bacon's epigone

A thought has a half life of three hundred years and though
science fashions have made a change, the attitude of the Ice
Wizard does remain. Technicians still view the world
with Medusa's eyes and see dead material and nothing alive.

THEY THINK THE WORLD DEAD ERGO IT IS DYING

they say there are profits to be made,

no sense crying

How we think the world it becomes that and that alone
and when we look at it with Medusa's eyes it becomes

dead, cold stone

—Sid Bridges

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

MAKING FOSSILS OUT OF FOSSILS

Mud of February
Bike tires underinflated
Unexpected greening in the yard
Fossil fuels
Making us warm
Driving us all to extinction
Sixty miles per hour
At such speed the stress
Makes everything more susceptible to disease
Making fossils out of fossils
Fueling extirpation
All the big fish gone
We're eating lower on the food chain
And the sea lions are starving.

—Jenny McBride

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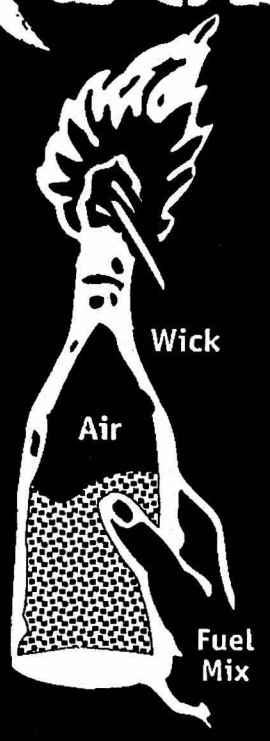

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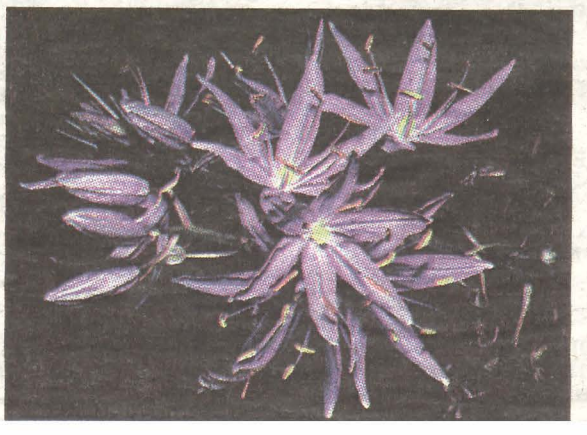

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